

STARS AND STRIPES®

Steelers look to end Eagles' perfect run, too

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Pittsburgh QB Ben Roethlisberger



Heidelberg latest to use curfew to curb teen mischief

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AF scraps blue test uniform for subdued tone

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New test uniform, left, with rejected uniform

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2004

50¢

Record turnout expected

ELECTION2004

- Overseas military rate appears lower
- Scattered problems noted across nation



Kerry



Bush

- Final pre-vote polls show dead heat
- Eyes of the world focused on election

Full coverage, Pages 3-6



A line of voters stretches out the door of Old Town Hall in East Haddam, Conn., on Tuesday. Officials at the polling place said that the voter turnout was "unbelievable."

AP

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Scene on Sunday

Better ways
to slurp ramen

Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Afghanistan kidnapping: Afghan officials are optimistic that three U.N. hostages in the capital will be freed unharmed, a government spokesman said Tuesday, though there was no evidence of any contact with the kidnappers. The Taliban splinter group that has claimed responsibility for abducting the trio in the Afghan capital last Thursday repeated its threat to kill them — but said it might ease its demand for the United Nations and British troops to leave Afghanistan.

Jaish-al Muslimin, or Army of Muslims, released a videotape on Sunday showing the frightened captives — Annetta Flanagan of Northern Ireland, Filipino diplomat Angelli-Nayan and Shihe Habibi of Kosovo.

Sept. 11 trial: A Jordanian-born man who says he served briefly as Osama bin Laden's bodyguard told a German court Tuesday that the al-Qaida leader spoke months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks of a strike against the United States and said there would be "thousands of dead."

Shadi Abdallah, 28, was testifying at the retrial of Mounir el Motassadeq, a Moroccan accused of helping the Sept. 11 hijackers when they lived and studied in Hamburg. Abdallah says he was one of bin Laden's bodyguards for about two weeks from early 2000 to May 2001.

Sudan crisis: Sudan denied a U.N. claim that Sudanese military and police forces were surrounding several refugee camps Tuesday in the war-torn region of Darfur and refusing access to humanitarian groups, but said angry Arab tribesmen had gathered in those areas.

Christiane Berthiaume, spokeswoman for the World Food Program, said in Geneva that at least 160,000 refugees in western Darfur cannot be reached by road "because of insecurity." She said the U.N. food agency has relocated 88 aid workers, most of them employed by independent aid agencies, from three camps in the Nyala region: Golu, Zaleinge and Nertette.

Former ETA leaders' plea: Six imprisoned former leaders of the armed Basque separatist group ETA have urged it to abandon violence, saying that after decades of bombings and shootings ETA has been defeated by Spanish security forces, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

"The armed struggle that we carry out today does not work," the six men said in a letter to ETA's clandestine leadership, according to the Pamplona newspaper *Diario de Noticias*. Instead, the letter said, ETA should let pro-independence politicians through Spain's existing institutions to try to achieve ETA's goal of a sovereign Basque nation straddling land in northern Spain and southwest France.



U.S.-Taiwan arms deal: Pro-weapons activists demonstrate outside of the legislature for the Taiwan government's plan to purchase massive amounts of U.S. weapons Tuesday in Taipei, Taiwan. Taiwan's government is eager to buy the weapons, worth \$18 billion. But the legislature hasn't approved a special budget for the deal, and a growing number of scholars, activists and retired generals are lobbying against it. Washington has warned that Taiwan's failure to approve a massive U.S. arms deal would have "repercussions" in America. The sign on the mock-tank reads "Only when you have power can you have peace."

Nuclear crises: Challenged by the U.N. nuclear chief to prove their atomic programs are peaceful, North Korea said it would scrap its "nuclear deterrence" if the United States ended its hostile policy and Iran said negotiations with three European countries may "bring fruit."

But North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador Kim Chang Guk on Monday totally rejected the International Atomic Energy Agency, calling it "a political tool of the superpower." He also accused Japan of allowing U.S. nuclear weapons on its soil and South Korea of nuclear ambitions.

Iran's deputy U.N. ambassador Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi was less strident, but stressed that Tehran "is determined to pursue its inalienable rights to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

Rioting in China: Villages were cordoned off and thousands of police kept watch along roads in central China on Tuesday following riots between majority Han Chinese and a Muslim minority that killed seven people and injured 42.

People in the area have been told they could leave only for emergencies, said the head of a mosque in the village of Nanren near the fighting's epicenter in Henan province. Martial law was lifted over the area on Monday, the imam said, but "we're still being told not to leave unless we absolutely have to."

States

Casino strike: Thousands of striking casino-hotel workers have reached a tentative

contract agreement that signals an end to a bitter, month-old walkout — the longest in Atlantic City, N.J., casino history.

The union representing about 10,000 striking bartenders, cocktail servers, housekeepers and other service employees approved the five-year deal late Monday. It calls for significant gains in wages and benefits and guards against the casinos' practice of leasing space to non-union restaurants and bars.

Freeway shootings: Two teenagers arrested Monday were accused in a shooting on an eastern Missouri interstate, one of a series that had sparked fears of a possible sniper aiming at motorists.

Police said the two were firing a .22-caliber rifle at a sign across Interstate 44.

One person was wounded in the shootings — a truck driver whose head injury on Oct. 21 was not life-threatening. Jeffrey Hubbard, 19, was charged Monday with second-degree assault in the case of the injured trucker. Both he and Paul Murta, 18, were charged with shooting across a highway, a misdemeanor.

Moussaoui terror case: Lawyers for terrorism defendant Zacarias Moussaoui said Monday they plan to seek further delays in bringing the case to trial while they appeal pretrial issues to the Supreme Court.

The lawyers, in a written motion, said they'll ask the trial judge to postpone all proceedings until they've exhausted appeals for Moussaoui — the only U.S. defendant charged with a terrorism conspiracy that included the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Corrections

■ In Sunday's editions, a caption accompanying a photo about Navy SEALs was incorrect. Petty Officers 2nd class Morgan Morgan and Will Brenes are not Navy SEALs.

■ In Monday's editions, a caption on a photo with a story about 1st Infantry Division spouses' reaction to an announcement on the length of the soldiers' Iraq tour misspelled the last name of Emily Daigle.



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IN THE STATES

Election Day: Time for the voters to speak

Record turnout expected in first wartime election in a generation

BY CALVIN WOODWARD
AND SCOTT LINDLAW
The Associated Press

In an election that bid to rival the photo finish of 2000, voters chose on Tuesday between President Bush and challenger Sen. John Kerry after a sluggish campaign that intensified through the year.

Bush, voting in Texas, said, "I've given it my all." Kerry, still campaigning in Wisconsin, promised to take the nation "to a better place."

There were long lines at polling places, and officials predicted record turnout in the first wartime election in a generation.

"This election is in the hands of the people, and I feel very comfortable about that," Bush said after voting near his ranch in Crawford, Texas, along with his wife and daughters. On his way back to Washington, he stopped in Columbus, Ohio, and made a few calls from a phone bank. "I promise you, it's me," he told one doubter.

Kerry, who was to vote later in Boston, handed out information packets in the morning to volunteers in La Crosse, Wis., exhorting his supporters to "get the job done."

"We're going to take America to a better place," the Massachusetts senator promised. Aides said he handed out presents on an emotional campaign-concluding flight back home.

It was the first presidential election since the United States plunged into its epochal war on terrorism, and heavy crowds were reported at polling places in the East, the first precincts to open. Long lines snaked out the doors as voters waited, some in the rain, and brought chairs for expected long waits.

The prospect of unprecedented legal challenges hung over Election Day, each side sending thousands of lawyers into motion to monitor the flood of newly registered voters and mount hair-trigger challenges against any sign of irregularity.

There were scattered early reports of machine breakdowns, late openings and other problems. One woman in Toledo sued election officials on behalf of Ohio voters who said they did not receive absentee ballots on time.

"My line of course is that this election ends tonight," Bush told reporters, referring to the expected legal challenges in some districts. He won the presidency in 2000 only after a Supreme Court decision gave him Florida and the Electoral College majority.

Of Kerry, Bush said, "I wish him all the best. He and I are in the exact same position. I'm sure he's happy, like I am, that the campaign is over."



People wait in line to vote in Columbus, Ohio, early Tuesday morning. Long waits were expected throughout the United States as large numbers of Americans headed to the polls.



Jennifer Biddle hangs on to her 2-year-old daughter, Olivia, while casting her ballot at the 20th Precinct in West Bloomfield, Mich.

For his part, Kerry made Election Day appearances in Wisconsin, where residents can register and vote on the same day. Of the reports of long voter lines, he said, "It's just a magical kind of day."

A dizzying final dash across the Midwest and points south capped a campaign that found the contenders deadlocked at every vital turn.

By all signs, voters were engaged. Long lines were reported at precincts from Florida and North Carolina to West Virginia and Michigan. "We even had people waiting in line before we opened at 6:30 a.m.," said Wayne County clerk Robert Pusley in Wayne, W.Va. "In some places, there was more than a dozen people waiting, and that's heavy."

Rain was falling in parts of the Midwest as voters lined up.

Brian Pravel, a 43-year-old welder who lives in Columbus, Ohio, said he had never before had to wait to vote. When he arrived at the Northland Church of Christ at 7:30 a.m., he found a long line of people and waited 45 minutes to cast a ballot. "I thought I was early enough to beat it," Pravel said.

The final pre-election polls turned up tied — 49-49 in one CNN-USA Today-Gallup survey, with Ralph Nader at 1 percent. Tight surveys in Florida and a variety of Midwestern states including Ohio deepened the mystery over who would collect the necessary 270 electoral votes.

Both candidates cast their candidacies as vital to the country's welfare. Bush declared the "safety and prosperity of America" was at stake, and Kerry said that "the hopes of our country are on the line."

Overnight, the Bush campaign sent an e-mail from the president exhorting people to vote — "It comes down to today" — and asking

Machines breaking down, late openings among early troubles

BY ANICK JESDANUN
The Associated Press

Polling places experienced scattered problems Tuesday as legions of lawyers, election-rights activists and computer scientists watched, particularly in battleground states, for any trouble that could disenfranchise voters.

New rules, new voters and a tight presidential contest combined to create "a recipe for problems," said Sean Greene, who was watching Cleveland polls for the Election Reform Information Project, a nonpartisan research group on election reform.

Nearly one in three voters, including about half of those in Florida, were expected to cast ballots using ATM-style voting machines that computer scientists have criticized for their potential for software glitches, hacking and malfunctioning.

Other major concerns were over provisional ballots, new this presidential election and a potential source of delayed counts, and whether poll workers were adequate and sufficiently trained.

"To a certain extent, provisional ballots are second-class votes," said Spencer Overton, a law professor at George Washington University. "You can cast a provisional ballot but we don't know if officials will count it."

Long lines greeted voters in many big cities in closely contested states, and some polls opened late.

that the recipient forward the e-mail to five more people. Kerry e-mailed a similar call to arms: "When you go to the polls bring your friends, your family, your neighbors. No one can afford to stand on the sidelines or sit this one out."

The nation's first votes cast and counted on Election Day, in the mountain hamlet of Hart's Location, N.H., reflected in miniature what seemed likely to be a large across the country: a horse race in votes, not just polls.

Following a quirky tradition of post-midnight voting in New Hampshire's North Country, 16 people voted for Bush, 14 for Kerry and one for Ralph Nader. Bush beat Democrat Al Gore 17-13 in the hamlet in 2000.

In an 11th-hour bow for Democrats in battleground Ohio, an appeals court in Cincinnati stayed lower court decisions and cleared the way for vote challengers to be present at polling places in the state Tuesday. Democrats had

At one New Orleans precinct, all three voting machines were broken and voters were told to come back later, said Bill Quigley, an attorney working for the NAACP.

In South Carolina, problems were reported in a handful of precincts in two counties using electronic machines. Officials said voters were forced to switch to paper ballots while technicians got the iVotronic touch screens from Electronic Systems & Software up and running within about 90 minutes.

Voters in one Richmond, Va., precinct using an old-style machine briefly cast ballots in the wrong congressional race.

And in Volusia County, Fla., a memory card in an optical-scan voting machine failed Monday at an early voting site and didn't count 13,000 ballots. Officials planned to feed the ballots, in which voters fill in a bubble, and count them Tuesday.

Chellie Pingree, president of the citizens lobbying group Common Cause, said her group was running a toll-free voting complaint and information hotline that logged 20,000 calls by 10 a.m. EST.

"Many of the states where the election is closest and contested is where we're hearing from people most," she said.

Pingree said high turnout meant "more confusion to already overburdened, understaffed polling places, many of which will have as many lawyers and poll challengers as they have people voting."

claimed Republicans were seeking to discourage minority voters by keeping party representatives out of polling stations.

The decisions were quickly appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Justice John Paul Stevens declined to overturn the appeals court action in an order issued little more than an hour before the polls there opened.

Nedra Pickler of The Associated Press, appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, contributed to this report. Calvin Woodward wrote from Washington.

Polling sites swamped by crowds

Undeterred by long lines and bad weather, voters cast '04 ballots

BY ROGER PETTERSON

The Associated Press

Voters trying to beat the Election Day rush turned out early in such large numbers in many precincts that they created their own crowds, standing in long lines that snaked outside and down the street, sometimes before the polling places even opened.

Umbrellas and raincoats were needed Tuesday from Texas to the lower Great Lakes, and snow-covered roads were a problem in the Texas Panhandle.

Besides the presidency, voters were filling 34 Senate seats, 11 governorships and all 435 House seats.

Both parties had pushed to evenize turnout among their supporters, and even with early voting in many states, tens of millions were headed to the polls before the long Election Day wound to a close.

"Some polling places voted 25 percent of their entire registered voters in the first hour," said Tom Leach, spokesman for the Chicago Election Board. "That's just unheard of."

"We're seeing lines, people waiting in lines, before the polls opening," said Scott Burnham, a spokesman for the Cook County Clerk's office.

Polling places across North Dakota reported voters waiting in line when they opened. "We've been very busy," deputy Ward County auditor Denise Osterberg said at mid-morning.

In Fargo, Shirley Blake said about 50 people were waiting when she opened a polling place, more than she had ever seen that early in more than a decade of working on elections.

"I've never had to wait in line before," Fred Flueger, 72, said at his polling place on Pittsburgh's South Side, where dozens of people were already waiting when he arrived shortly after polls opened. "Usually, if I had to wait, it would be three to four minutes. There's just a lot of interest in this election."

Turnout at another Pittsburgh precinct clearly was exceeding that of the Bush-Gore race four years ago, said Jay Troutman, the judge of elections at the polling place.



Poll volunteer Ethel Dunson waits for voters to line up in Columbus, Ohio, early Tuesday morning. Lines at that point were about two hours long.

"A good clip is one [voter] per minute, and we've exceeded that," Troutman said about 90 minutes after the polls opened.

"We wanted to come out early to vote but we never expected such a heavy turnout," Linda Russell said as she stood in line before polls opened in Raleigh, N.C.

Elsewhere in North Carolina, lines of voters snaked down sidewalks and across a street at a Durham precinct, where one man brought a chair to ease the wait.

About 100 people were already in line when Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh went to cast her own ballot shortly after the polls opened in Warren, Mich.

"I'm predicting up to 75 percent [turnout] in Macomb County," she said. "Every indication I have ... is that this is the election for people. It still seems very polarized — they're either going to support the president or get him out of there."

Up to 7 inches of snow fell in the Texas Panhandle, and Randall County Clerk Sue Bartoloni warned voters to be careful on the roads. A winter weather advisory was posted.

In nearby Texas County, Okla., the earlier arrival of the wintry conditions had led many

older voters to turn in absentee ballots Monday.

In southwest Kansas, the polling place for several precincts in Garden City had to be moved because the furnace didn't work in the Finney County 4-B building. Temperatures were in the low 30s.

Snow was likely to cut turnout in nearby Grant County, but "the ones who vote all the time will get out," said county clerk Linda McHenry.

The parking lot was crowded at Dent Middle School in Columbia, S.C., and about 200 people were waiting in line when the polls opened at 7 a.m.

"It's not normal," said 75-year-old Timothy Evans Sr., a longtime poll worker. "Four years ago, we had a little over 100 voters. It's really almost double that amount."

Strangers shared umbrellas in the rain as voters endured waits of two hours or more at polling places throughout Ohio.

"It's our job," Amanda Karel, 25, an Ohio State University graduate student, said as she waited to vote at a banquet hall in Columbus. "It's what we're supposed to do."

Then she joked: "It's the only way to make the ads stop."

Ohio gets challengers

CINCINNATI — Giving a pre-dawn Election Day boost to the GOP, a federal appeals court early Tuesday cleared the way for political parties to send in people to challenge voters' eligibility at Ohio polling places. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to step in.

Overturning the orders of two federal judges, a three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 early Tuesday that the presence of Election Day challengers was allowed under state law. It granted emergency stays that will allow Republicans and Democrats one challenger per precinct each.

Early Tuesday, Justice John Paul Stevens, who handles appeals from Ohio, refused a request to stay the 6th Circuit decision.

The series of rulings came in a pair of lawsuits seeking to block the GOP from stationing challengers at polling places, one filed by a county Democratic group and the other by a black couple who said the Republicans meant to intimidate black voters.

GOP watchers limited

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A federal judge partially granted Democratic U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle's request to limit the activities of Republican poll watchers, after he accused his opponent and the GOP of intimidating American Indian voters.

The decision early Tuesday morning by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol applies only to voters in Charles Mix County.

Traditionally, American Indians in South Dakota vote heavily Democratic.

As part of the ruling, Republican poll watchers are prohibited from following American Indian voters out of polling places. They are also prohibited from taking down the license plate numbers of American Indians' vehicles.

Daschle took his Republican opponent, the South Dakota Republican Party and GOP election observers to court late Monday, alleging intimidation of American Indian voters. He asked for a temporary restraining order to prevent Republicans from doing anything that would "harass, intimidate or discourage voters."

Voting from space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — With a quick computer key stroke, space station astronaut Leroy Chiao became the first American to vote for president from space, casting an encrypted ballot via e-mail and urging fellow countrymen to go to the polls Tuesday.

"It was just a small thing for me, but it is important symbolically to show that every vote does count," Chiao said from the international space station a few hours after the polls opened at 225 miles below.

From The Associated Press

Campaigns deny misleading phone calls

BY KATHY BARKS

HOFFMAN

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Some Michigan voters have received phone calls falsely claiming that Sen. John Kerry would make gay marriage legal. In New Jersey, some voters have heard a man claiming to be former Army Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf backing the Democrat. Elderly voters in Pennsylvania have been called and told they are ineligible to vote.

Republicans and Democrats were furious Monday about the blatantly false, 11th-hour political calls to voters and demanded an end to the messages.

Schwarzkopf has endorsed President Bush, but in a recording of a phone call played for The Associated Press, a man identifying himself as the general says, "In 2000, I voted for George W. Bush, but this year I'm voting for John Kerry."

A voice says the message was paid for by the Democratic National Committee.

In a statement from the Bush campaign, Schwarzkopf said the DNC was making fraudulent phone calls claiming that he had endorsed Kerry, and "nothing could be further from the truth, and I demand that they stop immediately."

DNC spokesman Jano Cabrera said Republicans spliced an ad by Gen. Merrill McPeak, a Kerry supporter, to make it sound as if Schwarzkopf was speaking so they could accuse Democrats of dirty tricks. Republicans denied being involved.

In Michigan, in a recording of a call played for the AP, a young woman says, "When you vote this Tuesday, remember to legalize gay marriage by supporting John Kerry. We need John Kerry in order to make gay marriage legal for our city."

Both Kerry and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, oppose gay marriage and say marriage should be limited to a man and a woman. Kerry has said he supports civil unions.

The calls began Sunday afternoon, according to Rodell Molineau, spokesman for Kerry's Michigan campaign. The campaign said voters in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint and Pontiac received calls.

"We're shocked and pretty much appalled that Republicans would sink to this in the last 48 hours of the campaign," Molineau said.

Michigan Republican Party executive director Greg McNeilly said recorded phone calls have been made by former Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler and Bush to Michigan voters, but he didn't know anything about the calls described by the Kerry campaign.

In Lancaster County, Pa., Republican officials said bogus phone calls have gone to at least a dozen elderly voters, alleging they are ineligible to vote. The calls appeared to target Republicans, said Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., who called them "an outrageous effort on the part of someone to try to depress the vote."

Registered Republican voters outnumber Democrats in Lancaster County more than a 3-to-1 margin.

GOP officials, meanwhile, have been getting reports of phone calls being made by a person who says he's representing the Bush campaign, and then unleashes a string of swear words. Another phone call is said to tell voters they've been drafted for military service because Bush needs them for the war in Iraq.

"There are so many reports of phone calls going on right now that appear to be untoward," McNeilly said.

Military overseas turnout might be down

Stars and Stripes

Although final tallies will not be counted for three months, voters in the military communities of Europe and the Middle East appear to have voted at lower rates this year than overall overseas military personnel did in 2000.

More than 5,000 last-minute ballots were mailed from U.S. post offices in Europe, according to figures released Tuesday by the Air Force, Army and Navy. As of Election Day, 88,788 ballots had been mailed from APO and FPO address in Europe, up 5,250 from Thursday.

The Air Force mailed 42,130 ballots; the Army mailed 36,203 and the Navy, 10,455. The eligible pool of military and depending voters in Europe is about 150,000 people, meaning roughly 59 percent of eligible voters mailed back ballots for this year's election.

The number would not include any e-mail or fax ballots that some states allow.

In 2000, after the Federal Voting Assistance Program spent \$35 million in a "Get Out the Vote" campaign, participation in the presidential elections among uniformed citizens stationed overseas reached 69 percent, according to the 16th annual Federal Voting Assistance Program report, issued by the Pentagon in December 2001.

The 2000 military overseas voting rate represented a 5 percentage point increase in uniformed overseas participation over the 1996 election, the report said.

Among federal civilian employees overseas in 2000, meanwhile, voting participa-

Evidence so far shows fewer ballots sent than in 2000 presidential election

tion was 65 percent.

The general U.S. public voting rate in 2000 was 51 percent.

The U.S. Postal Service and Department of Defense officials said in June that overseas servicemembers should cast their absentee ballots no later than Oct. 11.

Midwest turnout lower

As of last week, only about 25 percent of eligible voters deployed to the Middle East had sent in ballots, a voting assistance officer in Kuwait said. In the Central Command's theater of operations, 48,935 ballots were mailed as of Oct. 26.

Lt. Col. Korya James, a voting assistance officer in Kuwait who compiled the numbers, referred all questions this week regarding the ballots to the public affairs officers at CENTCOM's headquarters in Florida, who referred Stripes to Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait.

"We do not have specific numbers for us at this time," said Army Maj. Martin Downie, a spokesman at CFLCC.

Some troops serving in the war in Iraq —

this year's hottest election topic — say the military emphasized absentee voting, but some got their ballots late in the race. Others are still receiving them.

Spc. Ivan Burden, however, was proactive. He works in an International Zone post office himself, and didn't want to give any chances.

"I found it very easy," Burden said. "I actually voted when I was home on leave."

"That's cheating," interrupted another postal soldier, Spc. Zach Powers. He never got his ballot.

"We're still receiving absentee ballots," Powers said. "Ballots are the most important thing in the postal system right now. They take priority over everything."

Military absentee ballots, and whether they were postmarked on time, became a front line battle in the legal chaos that followed the 2000 election.

Soldiers said that first sergeants and company commanders had been getting the word out to troops to vote.

"We are party neutral, if you will, but for us it's important to make sure that every servicemember has the ability to vote in their local, state and federal elections,"

said Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq. "How they vote and whether they vote is up to them."

For some, the ballot wait led to creativity.

"I voted, but it took a little while for my absentee ballot to get here," said Pfc. Joseph Rogers of the 89th Military Police Brigade at Camp Victory.

"So I had a buddy who was going home on leave mail it for me. I've got a buddy who got his yesterday."

One soldier said that requesting a ballot early was the best tack.

"For me, it was pretty easy," said Sgt. Christian Hughes of the Washington Army National Guard. "I had it a few months ago. I think it depends on when they requested it."

Some soldiers simply chose not to cast their ballots.

"I would have voted if it was easier, myself," said Pfc. Sherwin James, deployed to Logistics Support Area Anacanda.

Other soldiers agreed.

Pfc. Aaron O'Hara with B Co. of the 84th Engineer Battalion from Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, also at Anacanda, said although his squad leader explained the process, it was too much effort to apply for a ballot. He didn't vote. If his unit landed on Baghdad, he would have, he added.

"I guess I'm too lazy," he said.

Staff writers Ward Sanderson and Juliana Gitter contributed to this report.

"We're still receiving absentee ballots. Ballots are the most important thing in the postal system right now."

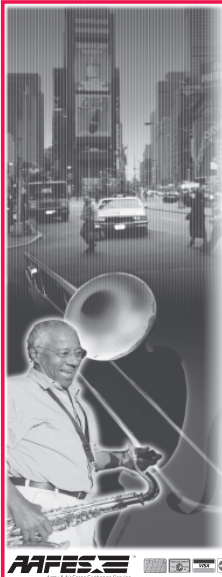
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Marines in Iraq: More going on than election

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — As Americans head to the polls, U.S. Marines squaring off against Iraqi insurgents say they expect trouble in Iraq for years no matter who wins the White House. What they want is better equipment, more pay and a clear exit strategy.

Many Marines fighting in Iraq's Sunni Triangle don't talk much about the race between President Bush and Sen. John Kerry. For them, the focus is on staying alive and following orders that they don't expect to change: Defeat the insurgency and help rebuild Iraq.

But what really concerns them is the prospect of an open-ended mission lacking a final benchmark for victory.

"We obviously can't just leave Iraq now and waste all of the good work the Marines have done here," said Hospital Corpsman Quinton Brown, a 24-year-old with the 1st Marine Division.

"Regardless, I want to see the next president give us an idea how we're going to end the occupation," he added.

Marines based in the dangerous areas west and north of Baghdad are preparing for a possible big offensive against insurgent strongholds if they get the go-ahead from interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

But Marine officers caution that

even if U.S. forces overrun the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, they don't expect the insurgency to evaporate. And troops on the ground say they've heard nothing from either Bush or Kerry indicating Marines will soon leave Iraq.

"It doesn't matter who the president is. Our role should be less and less here ... But we'll be here for at least the next four years," said Lance Cpl. Charles Revord, 24, of National City, Mich.

With violence expected to intensify ahead of Iraqi elections planned for January as a crucial step in the effort to stabilize the country and entrench democracy, Marines say they need better equipment, particularly well-armored Humvees.

"I hope the Marine Corps gets more funding, for better weapons, better gear and better Humvees," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Sandov-al.

Many Marines are eager to go after the insurgents.

"The next president needs to stop stalling. We're waiting around and they're getting stronger," Sandoval said of the insurgents. "At the same time, we're losing a lot of good Marines."

As for the political fight that has swirled back home, Marines say it seems millions of miles away, even though some analysts think military write-in ballots could help sway a close race.

"We don't ask who you voted for. We're focused on our mission," said Sanchez.



A pedestrian walks past a newsstand carrying an advertisement for a Chinese magazine with the headline "China's Security Shadow After the U.S. Election" in Beijing on Tuesday.

Rest of the world drawn into vote with interest

Polls in many countries show Kerry as the favorite

BY DAVID MCHUGH
The Associated Press

BERLIN — For Americans suffering from election overload as the last hours tick away, a warning: even leaving the United States would offer no escape.

To an extraordinary degree, leaders, people and news media outside the country were riveted by Tuesday's vote, drawn into the Bush-Kerry struggle by a deep-rooted feeling that the world — given today's circumstances — has a huge stake in the outcome as well.

Bush's go-it-alone stance on many issues — from the Kyoto Treaty to the war in Iraq — as well as his religious outlook, his Texas background and single-minded approach, have mobilized and polarized people all over the world, even if they can't vote.

Polls in many countries — and a quick survey of the newspapers and TV — leave little doubt that Kerry is the preferred choice across much of the globe.

Polls in Germany run as high as 80 percent against Bush.

In Britain, the right-wing Economist magazine joined the left-wing Guardian newspaper in endorsing Kerry.

France's Le Monde endorsed Kerry too.

On election eve, Mondy, Michael Moore's anti-Bush film "Fahrenheit 9/11" competes on prime time German television with "Wag the Dog," about a U.S. president who starts a war to distract from his domestic troubles,

and with 24-hour news channel reports on the candidate's final day of campaigning.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, cabdriver Wagner Marques, 54, prefers Kerry and wonders why the race is so close.

"We don't understand America now," he said. "Are they getting different news than us about the scandals in the Iraqi prisons, and the children and civilians who are getting killed?"

Lots of places have held mock polls, such as the artists, writers and professors in the Italian region of Tuscany, who organized what they billed as "the first American elections for non-Americans."

At the heart of the matter is a belief that in an era of globalization, when American decisions affect hundreds of millions around the globe, the election is not a domestic U.S. issue.

"Why shouldn't the Italians vote for the elections, too?" said screenwriter Michele Cogo. "The planet's destiny is decided in large part by America."

Plenty of foreign politicians have clear personal stakes in the outcome — and in these circles the choice is more balanced.

Japan's Junichiro Koizumi and Russia's Vladimir Putin, for instance, have signaled their preference for Bush.

"I don't want to interfere in another country's election, but I'm close to Bush so I'd like him to do well," said Koizumi, who threw in his lot with Bush by sending some 500 Japanese troops to Iraq on a humanitarian mission.

Putin has said a Bush defeat would mean a new impulse for terrorism, a clear sign of preference though he's refused to make an explicit endorsement.

Bush has toned down criticism of Russia's heavy-handed campaign against separatist rebels in Chechnya in return for Putin's support in the war on terror.

Even the politicians who kept the endorsements to themselves had a big stake.

For France and Germany — dubbed "Old Europe" by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — a Kerry White House would mean a chance of mending ties. These nations that refused to help Bush in Iraq may have a problem saying no again if Kerry makes good on his campaign pledge to seek new allies in the war.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, for instance, won re-election in 2002 largely because of his forceful rejection of the Iraq war, which he criticized as "an adventure" and "playing around."

Yet, despite Schroeder's cool relations with Bush, a Kerry win may put pressure on him to back off his refusal to send troops to Iraq.

Germany may want a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council — and may feel pressure to offer something in return, a number of observers have pointed out.

"If a newly elected president calls for a new contribution that we've refused up to now, it won't be so easy to reject as it fortunately has been with the enemy image of Bush," former defense minister Rudolf Scharping said.

U.S. race under close scrutiny in the Middle East

BY TANALEE SMITH
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — One satellite station is urging Arab viewers phone in their votes for President Bush or Sen. John Kerry. Kuwait television planned live coverage overnight until official results are in. In the U.S. elections are Page 1 news in almost every newspaper in the region.

No matter the medium, the message was the same: The result of Tuesday's U.S. presidential election will greatly impact the Middle East. And Arabs are paying close attention.

While Middle East governments officially brush off the impact the outcome will have on relations with the United States, many Arabs have been frustrated and angered by what they view as Bush's misguided Middle East policy and American military aggression in Iraq.

"In the Arab world, the consensus is that the Bush tenure has made matters worse, especially for the Palestinians and the Iraqis," said an editorial in the Jordan Times. "Bush's rule has also destabilized the entire world. The war on terrorism appears not to have made a dent in organizations like al-Qaida and others like it."

"Arabs and Muslims are looking forward to the election results. Maybe if Kerry wins, then there will be some hope to resolve the conflict in Iraq and Palestine," said an editorial in Jordan's pro-government Al Rai newspaper. Bush is widely viewed in the Arab world as unfavourably pro-Israel.

Ali Okla Ersan, head of the Arab Writers' Union in Syria, said Arabs are closely following the U.S. elections because "they are directly affected by their results due to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and its repercussions on neighboring countries" as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We hope that the next U.S. president would take a balanced and objective stand toward our basic issues, especially in Palestine," he said.

In Lebanon, Joseph Samaha, editor-in-chief of the leftist daily As-Safir, wrote that international relations for the foreseeable future will be affected by Americans' decision Tuesday "and the Middle East is at the heart of this equation."

It is regrettable, Samaha wrote, that the elections "will decide the fate of people who cannot vote in it."

Maybe not for real, but the Arab satellite network Al-Arabiya — promoting its coverage with the slogan, "George Bush or John Kerry? The result will affect us all" — was giving its viewers a chance to pretend.

"If you had the right to vote, who would you elect?" the network asks. Call-in voting began an hour before the first poll was opened on the east coast of the United States. Two hours into the

calling, Bush had the early lead: 53 percent to 47 percent for Kerry in the unscientific gauge of viewer interest.

Television stations across the region planned special coverage of the race.

Early in the afternoon, Al-Jazeera satellite network broadcast footage of New Hampshire voters using touch-screen terminals. The station planned live coverage of the polls, international analysts and a thorough history of both candidates, particularly their relations with the Arab world.

State-owned Kuwait Television was to air a live program, "The Road to the White House," overnight until results are announced, featuring reports from the United States and analyst comment.

Some Jordanians in the capital, Amman, said they planned to stay up all night to watch election coverage.

Jordanian pharmacist Salma Eissa said she prefers a Kerry win because the Democrats "don't use war to solve the world's problems."

"We saw Bush and we weren't happy with him," she said. "There is no one who likes the war in Iraq. There are other ways to deal with terrorism."

Mohammad al-Fakhouri, 32, owner of a mobile phone shop in Amman, said he was sure Bush would win, though he hoped for a Kerry victory.

Syria's official media said Tuesday it did not make a difference whether Bush or Kerry won the elections.

"Bush and Kerry are the same, as they turn facts upside down," said the English-language Syria Times newspaper in a leading article. "Arabs want fairness, whether it is Bush or Kerry who wins the elections."

In Iran, where the head of the Security Council last week endorsed Bush, President Mahmoud Khatami said he has no preference.

"But we hope, they whether Bush or Kerry, will move logically and justly to meet the interests of the American people and in line with noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, detente and establishment of peace based on justice," he said.

One Arab country where the Republican ticket remains strong and the president's father is a hero is Kuwait to a U.S. ally freed by American-led forces under the first President Bush after Saddam Hussein invaded in 1990.

"In Kuwait, we have love and respect for the Bushes because they moved the world to liberate Kuwait from its occupier the toppled Saddam Hussein," wrote a columnist for Al-Anba daily.

"That is why we, the Bush fans, we owe him and his father."



Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

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Members of the Army National Guard's ECHO Company 1st-148 Infantry, stationed in Urbana, Ohio, hold hands with other military supporters during an April 2003 "Support Our Troops Rally" in Urbana. The Army National Guard is adjusting its recruiting strategies after falling short of recruiting goals.

Guard adds enticements as recruitment stumbles

By JAMES HANNAH
The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Free hunting and fishing licenses. More chances to get signing bonuses. Pink T-shirts for women.

The Army National Guard, which has fallen short of recruiting goals during the prolonged fighting in Iraq, is trying new marketing beyond the traditional enticement of college tuition aid. "There are fewer people who are voluntarily expressing an interest — calling or returning postcards," said Lt. Col. Dan Kenkel, spokesman for the Guard in Nebraska.

Nationally, the Army Guard reached 88 percent of its goal of 56,000 recruits by the end of September, signing up 49,210.

"Recruiting is tougher than it's been in awhile," said James Sims, spokesman for the Ohio Guard,

which is about 500 off its target of 2,100 recruits.

Guard officials around the country blame concerns about the Iraq war, Pentagon orders that keep some soldiers from leaving active duty and going into the Guard, and turnover among recruiters, some of whom have been sent overseas.

Of the 100,000 Army Guard members sent to Iraq, about 110 have died.

In the past, young people saw enlisting as a way to get college tuition with little risk to themselves, said Lt. Col. Greg Haggood, spokesman for the Iowa National Guard. "Today, that risk has changed," he said.

The pink T-shirt bearing the words "Soldier Girl" was designed by Sgt. Stacey Weston, a recruiter in Indiana, to get the attention of potential recruits. She said

the Guard quickly ran out of the first order of 800 shirts.

"A lot of young ladies are under the impression they can't be feminine if they join the military," Weston said. "I wanted to dispel that myth."

The Nebraska Guard was 87 soldiers short of its goal of 519 recruits. It is plastering several Dodge Stratuses with its decals and logos in hopes of catching the eye of potential recruits.

The number of job-skill categories that pay signing bonuses of \$3,000 to \$8,000 — such as driving heavy equipment — will be upped from 19 to 30 in the Kansas Army Guard. And thanks to the Legislature, its members will be eligible for free fishing and hunting licenses and passes to state parks beginning in January.

Recruiter Lt. Col. Jane Harris said there is no way to tell how many recruits have been influenced by the new marketing.

Court allows new trial

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court allowed a new trial to proceed Monday for a black man sentenced to death 18 years ago in a case in which prosecutors improperly restricted opportunities for blacks to serve on his jury.

The court, with comment, declined to hear Philadelphia's appeal in the case of Arnold Holloway, 62, who allegedly murdered a fellow drug dealer.

DNA legislation

WASHINGTON — Rape victims and felons in prison will have greater access to DNA testing under a five-year, \$1 billion program signed into law by President Bush.

The law ensures access to post-conviction DNA tests for those serving prison sentences, including prisoners on death row. It provides \$775 million in grants over the next five years to clear the backlog of some 350,000 untested DNA samples in rape evidence kits.

From The Associated Press

Springfield (Ohio) News-Sun/AP

Defense: Peterson portrayed as 'jerk'

Closing arguments end in case of wife's death

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Prosecutors failed to prove that Scott Peterson murdered his pregnant wife, Laci, and were telling jurors, "don't bother with the five months of evidence," a defense attorney said Tuesday.

As the defense closing argument got under way, Mark Geragos told jurors that prosecutors portrayed Peterson as a "jerk and a liar" but have not shown him to be guilty.

Geragos accused authorities of waffling on their theory of the crime, first claiming Peterson's affair with Amber Frey was his motive for murder, and later pointing to Peterson's desire to be free from marriage.

"Clearly Amber was not the motive. Nobody was going to kill Laci Peterson and her child for Amber Frey," Geragos said.

The jurors heard the prosecution closing argument Monday and were expected to begin deliberations as early as Wednesday. The trial began with jury selection in March and opening statements in June.

The prosecutors' motive, Geragos suggested, was to make jurors hate his client.

"If you hate him, then maybe what they're asking you to do is just convict him. Don't bother with the five months of evidence. ... Don't bother with the fact that the evidence shows clearly that he didn't do this and had absolutely no motive to do this," Geragos told jurors.

Prosecutors claim Peterson killed his wife on Dec. 23 or 24, 2002, then dumped her white body into San Francisco Bay. Defense lawyers claim someone else abducted and killed Laci.

Peterson is charged with two counts of murder, in the deaths of his wife and the fetus she carried. A first-degree murder conviction



Scott Peterson, background, and defense attorney Mark Geragos, listen during prosecutors' closing arguments Monday in Peterson's trial in Redwood City, Calif.

could bring the death penalty. Jurors will also be allowed to consider second-degree murder, which does not require evidence of premeditation and carries a sentence of 15 years to life in prison.

In their closing Monday, prosecutors made their case for premeditation, contending each piece of evidence is like a piece of a puzzle that convicts the former fertilizer salesman.

"He wants to live the rich, successful, free-wheeling bachelor life. He can't do that when he's paying child support, alimony and everything else," prosecutor Rick Distato told jurors.

"He didn't want to be tied to this kid the rest of his life. He didn't want to be tied to Laci for the rest of his life. So he killed her," Distato told jurors.

Potential cervical cancer vaccine shows promise

By MARILYN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Efforts to develop the world's first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer took a key step forward Monday with test results suggesting that it can provide long-lasting protection.

Four years after getting the vaccine, 94 percent of women were protected from infection with the virus that causes most cervical cancers and none had developed worrisome precancerous conditions, a study showed.

"We're thrilled about these results. The immune responses seem to be really long-lasting," said Dr. Eliav Barr, who leads development of the vaccine for Merck & Co. The company plans next Food and Drug Administration approval next year for an expanded version of the vaccine that also could be used to prevent genital warts in both women and men.

The new study was funded by Merck and led by University of Washington researchers who presented results Monday at a meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

"They showed clear effectiveness," said Dr. Scott Hammer, a Columbia University infec-

tious disease expert who reviewed the work but has no tie to Merck or the study. "This is a very important issue for women's health around the world."

If the vaccine makes it to market, it would be the second developed to prevent cancer. The hepatitis B vaccine has dramatically reduced the number of infections that progress to liver cancer.

Cervical cancer strikes nearly half a million women worldwide each year and kills about half. In the United States, about 15,000 women get it and about 5,000 die.

Virtually all cases are caused by infection with human papilloma virus (HPV), which is spread through sex. One strain, HPV-16, accounts for about half of all cervical cancers.

A previous study showed that HPV-16 infections were completely prevented in 768 women who had received the Merck vaccine 18 months earlier. None developed precancerous conditions either.

The new study followed 755 of these women for four years after vaccination. HPV-16 infections had taken hold in seven of the vaccinated precancers. In a comparison group of 750 women who received dummy shots, infections took hold in 111 and precancers formed in 12.

Even though protection had waned for a small number of women in the study, the vaccine's effectiveness was still very high, said Dr. Douglas Lowy, a National Cancer Institute scientist who invented the vaccine. The government gave rights to develop it to two companies — Merck and GlaxoSmithKline — and Merck's work is a little further along, Lowy said.

"Re-vaccination might be advisable at some point," but it will take more study to know whether that is necessary or would improve effectiveness, he said.

Women in the study were ages 16 to 23 when they received the vaccine, given in three doses over six months.

"Most people think it would be recommended for young adolescents. The idea would be you would immunize people relatively soon before they become sexually active," because the germ is spread through sex, Lowy said.

Meanwhile, Merck is in the final stages of testing an expanded vaccine. Besides HPV-16, it contains strain 18, which causes about 10 percent to 20 percent of cervical cancers, as well as strains that cause genital warts in men and women, and penile and anal cancers in men.

More violence as pressure rises on Alawi

Baghdad, Mosul car bombs kill at least 12; no word on latest hostages taken in Iraq

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Car bombs killed at least a dozen people in Baghdad and another major city Tuesday as pressure mounted on interim Prime Minister Ayad Alawi to avoid ordering a full-scale U.S. attack on the insurgent stronghold Fallujah.

There was no word on an American and two other foreigners abducted Monday night in Baghdad, although the kidnappers freed two Iraqi guards also captured in the bold attack. Some diplomats speculated the foreigners may have been seized to pressure the Americans against a Fallujah attack.

U.S. officials denied a report broadcast by Arabic satellite television stations that an American soldier was abducted in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Also on Monday, kidnappers of British aid worker Margaret Hassan threatened to turn her over to an al-Qaida affiliated group within 48 hours if the British government refuses to pull its troops from Iraq, Al-Jazeera television reported.

Hassan, the Iraq director of CARE International, was abducted last month in western Baghdad. No group has claimed responsibility for her kidnapping and there was no sign on the brief broadcast of any banner identifying who held her.

At least eight people died early Tuesday when an explosive-laden car slammed into concrete blast walls and protective



A U.S. soldier guards the site of a car bomb explosion Tuesday near an office of the Iraqi Ministry of Education in Baghdad.

barriers surrounding the Education Ministry and exploded in Baghdad's Sunni Muslim district Azamiyah.

Ten others were injured, according to Al-Numan Hospital. Officials at a second hospital, Baghdad Medical City Hospital, reported two more deaths and 19 injured.

In Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, a car bomb exploded

near a military convoy carrying an Iraqi general, killing four civilians and wounding at least seven soldiers, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Iraqi police said the attack was an assassination attempt on Iraqi Maj. Gen. Rashid Feleih, commander of a special task force, who occupied injury. Feleih was apparently on his way to a news conference to talk about the role of the task force, according to police and media reports.

The fresh violence occurred as American forces prepare for a major offensive against Fallujah and other Sunni Muslim militant strongholds north and west of Baghdad in hopes of curbing the insurgency to that national elections can be held by the end of January.

U.S. forces have pounded insurgent positions around Fallujah almost daily, but American officials say the go-ahead for an all-out assault must come from Alawi, the interim prime minister.

However, new pressure mounted Tuesday on Alawi, a Shiite, to forego an assault and to continue negotiating with the hard-line Sunni clerics who run the city, which has become a symbol of

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,122 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 858 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department as of Monday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 70 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 984 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 749 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed Sunday by a bomb in Ramadi, the military said.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

Marines killed Saturday in Anbar province, Iraq, all except Courtney assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd

Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy D. Bow, 20, Lemnora, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. John T. Byrd II, 23, Fairview, W.Va.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Travis A. Fox, 25, Cowpens, S.C.

■ Marine Pfc. John Lukac, 19, Las Vegas

■ Marine Cpl. Christopher J. Lapka, 22, Peoria, Ariz.

■ Marine Pfc. Andrew G. Riedel, 19, Northglenn, Colo.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Michael P. Scarborough, 28; Washington, Ga.

■ Marine Sgt. Kelley L. Courtney, 28, Macon, Ga.; assigned to 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MEF, Okinawa, Japan.

■ Army Spc. Sean Frederick Akintade, 34, New York, died Thursday in Abd Allah, Iraq, when his unit was attacked with an explosive and small arms fire, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, New York.

■ Army Sgt. Maurice Keith Fortune, 25, Forestville, Md.; died Friday in Ramadi, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Hovey, Korea.

■ Marine 1st Lt. Matthew D. Lynch, 25, Jericho, N.Y.; died Sunday in Anbar province, Iraq, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Iraq resistance throughout the Arab world.

Mohammed Bashir al-Faidhi, spokesman of the Association of Muslim Scholars, said Tuesday that his clerical group would use "mosques, the media and professional associations" to proclaim a civil disobedience campaign and a boycott of the January elections.

"In the case of an incursion in Fallujah, there will be a call to boycott elections," al-Faidhi said. "In case of an incursion, more deterrent steps will be taken."

He said that a boycott call by the influential clerical group "will have a great resonance among the people of Iraq."

Such a call by Iraqi Sunnis would probably draw little support among the Shiite majority, believed to compromise about 60

percent of Iraq's nearly 26 million people. The country's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, has been demanding elections for more than a year, and some Shiite preachers have been telling their followers that failure to vote would be sinful.

However, a boycott call could have resonance among Sunnis of central Iraq, who form the core of the insurgency, and inflame passions between the country's major religious communities with grave consequences for national unity.

Interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, one of the country's leading Sunnis, has also spoken out against an attack.

U.S. officials believe Fallujah is the stronghold of an al-Qaida extremist led by Jordanian extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, responsible for numerous car-bombings and beheadings of foreigners.

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AF develops new version of tiger-stripe uniform

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force's first test version of its new field uniform was not a bit with the force, so the service has developed a new version that is a little less "distinctive," according to Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, chief of the Air Force Uniform Board.

The new test uniform uses almost the same subdued gray, tan and green the Army uses in its new battle dress uniforms.

While the Army and Marines are using a fully digitized computer-generated pattern on its fabric, the Air Force is using a computerized version of the tiger-stripe pattern of the first prototype.

The original prototype was introduced earlier. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper decided last year that airmen needed something "distinctive" that would

meet the needs of his service. It was a design that was a direct nod to the tiger-stripe jungle uniforms worn by U.S. troops in Vietnam.

Jumper wanted something other than the olive drab or desert-tan BDUs the Air Force now shares with the Army (except for flight crews and pilots, who wear green jumpsuits).

The colors of the prototype uniform included blue, green and tan. There was even a tiny, repeated "U.S. Air Force" motif embedded in the pattern.

The results of six months of tests and surveys are still not completely tallied, but service officials released one statistic Tuesday: 91 percent of wear-testers "loved being in a distinctive uniform," Dean said.

However, "it was a little too distinctive," she said.

The prototype was worn by a total of 700 airmen at seven bases for six months, starting this spring.

Officials also opened a Web site early this summer, asking for comment from active, reserve, and Air National Guard airmen.

A total of 100,000 airmen registered their comments, along with 25,000 additional airmen clothing whom officials pulled in order to take a "more scientific sampling" of opinions, Dean said.

Along with the fabric's color, the biggest negative reaction to the prototype was the lack of camouflage properties in the pattern, she said.

The Air Force's answer to that issue was that "97 percent of the Air Force does not require a camouflage uniform," Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens said back in April.

"These [prototype] uniforms were never supposed to be worn on deployments," Dean said Tuesday. "They were for garrison use."

So if the Air Force had adopted the original pattern, the plan was



The new Air Force test uniform, with a subdued digital tiger-stripe pattern, is on the left. The original test colors, right, proved to be "too distinctive" for airmen, Air Force officials said.

LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

for the 3 percent of the force that needs camouflage — mainly special operators — to be given uniforms "appropriate for the environments they work in," Stephens had said.

And deployed airmen, she said, would have returned to wearing the Army's DCUs if they were deployed, Dean said Tuesday.

With the new, subdued pattern, however, that plan has changed.

In fact, the new test audience for the uniform is not regular airmen, but special operators, who are the only group that will wear-test the second prototype, to check for its camouflage qualities, Stephens said Tuesday.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at:
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1st ID: Iraq deployment always had been slated for 12 months

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

The 1st Infantry Division always expected to stay in Iraq until February, according to 1st ID officials, despite a Department of Defense news release that said the division was to return after only 10 months.

The release, posted on the Pentagon's Web site on Saturday, stated that soldiers from 1st ID and the 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, were to be deployed for 10 months, but their deployments were being adjusted to 12 months to help provide security for upcoming Iraq elections.

But the Germany-based 1st ID never had 10-month orders, according to Capt. Bill Coppennell, a 1st Infantry Division spokesman in Tikrit, Iraq.

"We have expected a 12-month deployment all along," Coppennell said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Recent news articles about the "two-month adjustment" have caused a bit of a stir, Coppennell said.

"I can see how they would lead someone (in the 1st Infantry Division) to believe that they are having to stay in Iraq longer," he said.

Coppennell said the 1st ID is seeking clarification on the DOD release, but the division had always planned to be deployed 12 months.

"When the division was deployed, we all planned on 12 months of deployment," he said. "We expected a 12-month rotation. That hasn't changed."

However, there have been rumors spreading among the soldiers and filtering back to their spouses that the division would leave Iraq as early as December.

"We've had some spouses over



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

1st Infantry Division soldiers at Camp Udair, Kuwait, hunker down against a sandstorm in February. According to 1st ID officials, the 1st ID always expected to stay in Iraq until February despite last week's Department of Defense news release that said the division was to return two months earlier.

the past few months asking if the soldiers are coming home early, but it's been onesies and twosies," said Staff Sgt. Gregory Fisher, rear detachment commander for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment, in Bamberg, Germany. "General (B.B.) Bell came to Bamberg to tell spouses that the 1st ID can't come back early and won't come back early."

Fisher said he received several calls Tuesday from family members who had read the news reports on the "extension."

"We have always told them one way," Fisher said. "Every set of orders that was handed out before the unit deployed said 365 days — one year."

Two brigades that will be part of Task Force Liberty will arrive in Iraq as early as December for

relief in place operations with Task Force Danger's 30th Brigade Combat Team and a brigade from the 25th Infantry Division.

Replacements for the Germany-based brigades and the task force's command element will deploy later, Coppennell said. Task Force Liberty will be led by the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters from the New York Army National Guard.

The relief in place and transfer of authority can take months, he said.

"This isn't something you do in a day or a week," Coppennell said. "It's a long, deliberate, staggered process. We can't just unplug and leave."

"We want to make sure we set the (42nd) up for success. We started something that we will finish until the last day."

E-mail Rick Emert at:
emert@mail.strips.osd.mil

Curfew for teens begins in Heidelberg community

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The Heidelberg military community launched a curfew Monday designed to cut down on late-night vandalism and teenage rowdiness.

Depending on ages and whether it's a school night, the curfew starts anywhere from 7 p.m. to midnight and lasts until 5 a.m.

The move comes as commanders in other military communities are considering similar measures.

"We're looking at a curfew as well," said Lt. Col. Melissa Sturgeon, commander of Mannheim's 293rd Base Support Battalion.

Sturgeon has asked the mayors of her eight main housing areas to poll parents and other residents on the issue. They're due to report back at Mannheim's town hall meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Sullivan Barracks. All Mannheim military housing area residents are encouraged to attend.

"There's a lot of inappropriate behavior going on and this might be a good tool to help parents reduce that," said Sturgeon. But she concedes, "We're not even sure that it's kids who are causing most of the problems, but I can tell you that our football fields and areas around the schools are being badly trashed with beer bottles and that people are finding, shall we say, paraphernalia from activities that should be done privately in a house."

Asked what she thought of the new curfew in Heidelberg, one high school student quipped, "It doesn't matter, it's not like it's going to stop people from going out."

She may be right.

The military police in Heidelberg's 41st Base Support Battalion have only seven patrols out at any given time — and that's covering more than 20 installations.

"The reality is we'd have a hard time really enforcing a curfew," said Sturgeon, who said she suffers from a similar shortage of MPs.

But, say officials, at least with a curfew MPs and local commanders will be able to hold parents accountable for children caught out after hours. In Heidelberg, parents will get one warning if their children are caught outside after hours, before commanders become involved.

Limitations aside, officials want to see if a curfew helps.

"We'll be watching what happens in Heidelberg very carefully," said Sturgeon.

Heidelberg is just the latest in a growing number of family housing areas throughout Europe to impose curfews.

The Darmstadt area's 233rd Base Support Battalion put a curfew in place for children 14 and under about three years ago.

The Durnham area's 233rd Base Support Battalion put a curfew out fine, said Jayme Loppnow. "I talked to the MPs and they didn't have anything bad to say about it."

And it's not just Army communities that are looking to curfews.

At the Navy's air station in Sigonella, Sicily, for example, children 17 and under must be in by 11 p.m. Base playgrounds are off limits after 9 p.m.

The Durnham area's two main hubs in England — RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall, children under the age of 18 must be at their home from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:20 p.m. to 6 a.m. Fridays, Saturdays and on holidays.

Other exceptions: When kids are out with their parents, a legal guardian or a responsible adult who has taken charge of the child with parent consent.

Jason Chudy in Italy and Ron Jensen in England contributed to this report.

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PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Above: U.S. Marine Gen. James L. Jones, supreme allied commander of NATO's military arm, talks with German officials Sunday during a visit to a provincial reconstruction camp in Kunduz, Afghanistan. Right: Capt. Jose Antonio Ferrari of Spain's 3rd Paratroop Battalion, the "Ortiz de Zarate," said he is proud to have helped the Afghan people hold their Oct. 9 presidential election. Ferrari, who is based in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, said, "We are Spanish paratroopers. We are prepared to go anywhere in the world. Otherwise, we wouldn't be soldiers. We wouldn't be paratroopers."



Jones, NATO recruiting for Afghan effort

Successful elections bring optimism for expanded reconstruction

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Buoyed by recent successes, NATO soon will ask European nations to send more troops and equipment to Afghanistan. If enough nations pitch in, the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan could be reduced.

The plan is to ask nations to stake a claim in the country, providing a more stable area a piece at a time, according to U.S. Marine Gen. James L. Jones, NATO's supreme allied commander.

Following the successful Afghan presidential elections and the small victories at many regional outposts, Jones plans to seek more help from the alliance's member nations, as well as others.

Jones hopes to point to people such as Thomas Scheibe, a lieutenant colonel in the German army, who said his unit is making a difference.

"There's a woman I know from Germany who has come here for 10 years as [an aid worker]," Scheibe said. "She told me that Kunduz used to be a dead city. Now it's humming with life."

The Germans operate a Provincial Reconstruction Team, or PRT, in Kunduz. It's one of 19 PRTs in Afghanistan, which range in size from 50 to 500 troops. Seven of those are run by NATO, and the rest by individual countries — the United States mans the most, but England, Germany, Spain and other nations also operate some.

The teams help establish good will, as well as law and order. They do it militarily by consolidating weapons and gathering intelligence, and do it civil-affairs-style by repairing roads and providing medical treatment, among other methods.

Country has many needs

NATO plans to install reconstruction teams around the country in four geographic phases. Stage 1 in the north is done; Stage 2 in the west is next up.

Afghanistan, which is slightly smaller than the state of Texas, had become a safe haven for terrorists as well as one of the world's leading producers of illegal narcotics over the past two decades. It's a vast, un-



A Turkish Black Hawk helicopter taxis down the runway Sunday at Kabul International Airport. There are 37 countries in the International Security Assistance Force that is trying to stabilize Afghanistan and enable the new government to take hold.

developed country of mountains and barren landscapes run by territorial warlords.

The PRTs were established to stabilize regions, but peace isn't Afghanistan's only need — as the country is in need of an infrastructure overhaul — so Jones will ask countries for equipment and expertise.

Some nations already have contributed. The Czech Republic has sent a battalion trained to take on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

The Netherlands has contributed the 1st Helicopter Detachment, 301st Squadron of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. Its six Apache helicopters, 110 troops and 24 vehicles are based in Kabul, the capital.

The helicopters act as deterrents while supporting troops on the ground.

"Mostly it's just being in the air and scaring away the bad guys," said Lt. Col. Cos Dunhoof. He added that the Dutch copters have yet to fire a shot in the conflict.

"We need more of those types of things," Jones said. "It's not for me to say whether [nations] should contribute a little or a lot. They have to do what they can do."

"But we can always give advice if we're asked."

For example, he said, the country now

needs air traffic controllers and other flight-line specialists to help run Kabul International Airport.

"Obviously, the long-term answer is to train the Afghans to do it themselves," Jones said. "The short-term answer is going to be a combination of military and perhaps contractors, because [it takes] very high skills here to run this airport."

Internationalizing the effort

One month after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. military invaded Afghanistan to hunt down the prime suspects: Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

The U.S. military also took down the aiding-and-abetting Taliban government that had come to power in 1996.

But for the good the U.S. military did, it had somehow become the big, bad wolf to many.

"There was a tendency to associate U.S. military engagements ... as kick-in-doors drama," said Daniel Riggio of NATO's Public Diplomacy Division in Brussels, Belgium. "They were seen as being in staunch pursuit of the bad guy without regard to local cultures and sensitivities."

The increase in international troops on the ground has helped spread the credit for Afghanistan's gains, while also softening the presence of the United States, and the U.S. image has improved dramatically.

American troops are now seen in most of the country as being needed, Riggio said. Even though the United States has, by far, the most foreign troops in Afghanistan, troops from the other 36 nations are highly visible.

"There's no risk as [the U.S. troops] being perceived as foreign occupying forces," Riggio said.

Currently, there are about 18,000 U.S. troops in the country and between 6,500 and 8,000 other NATO forces there.

More elections upcoming

One election is completed: Hamid Karzai is set to be named president, receiving 55 percent of the nationwide vote on Oct. 9.

More than 10 million people registered to vote, including 4 million women, according to the International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, the Kabul-based security and civil affairs arm of the effort to reconstruct Afghanistan.

Now that there is a president in place, parliamentary elections are being planned to elect local and regional representatives.

When they happen depends, in part, on security.

"We need national contributions for a few PRTs," Jones said of Stage 2 in the west. "There are two U.S. PRTs out there right now."

The current generation of Afghans has lived through coups, mass killings, a Soviet invasion and the oppressive Taliban regime. Now the 28 million Afghans living there have their first-ever elected president and must be prepared for the next phase.

"Once [nations] have the will, we can provide the way very quickly," Jones said. "The important thing is that we have momentum."

"We're not content with just Stage 2," he added. "We want to do the entire plan. So we want to see the momentum and get on with it."

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IN THE WORLD

Bin Laden: Al-Qaida bleeding U.S. economy

BY DONNA BRYSON
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In rhetoric similar to critical U.S. campaign headlines, Osama bin Laden accused President Bush of going to war for Iraq's oil, and said the American people would be the losers.

Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida network carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, proved he's kept a close eye on U.S. politics as he detailed al-Qaida's strategy of bleeding America bankrupt, even as Americans weighed their presidential votes largely on the issues of terror and the economy.

He provided a financial analysis of al-Qaida's destruction in his latest 18-minute video, a full transcript of which was posted Monday on the Internet.

According to bin Laden's math, each \$1 spent on strikes has cost the United States \$1 million in economic fallout and

military spending, including emergency funding for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers," bin Laden said, estimating the deficit at more than \$1 trillion. In reality, spending in the war against terror and other factors have resulted in an expected \$377 billion shortfall for 2003 — the highest deficit since World War II when inflation is factored out. The total U.S. national debt is near \$7.4 trillion.

Bin Laden credited the holy warriors he fought with against the Soviets in Afghanistan two decades ago with having "bled Russia for 10 years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat."

"So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy," bin Laden said in the tape that appeared near the end of a U.S. campaign that has focused on the war on terror as well as the founding U.S. econ-

omy.

Bin Laden claimed al-Qaida was winning its war with the United States, and that U.S. defense contractors linked to Bush "like Halliburton and its kind" were also benefiting, while the losers were "the American people and their economy."

Evan F. Kohlmann, a U.S.-based counterterrorism researcher, said it was as if bin Laden were following the news from America, perhaps on satellite TV, and drawing shrewd assumptions about what concerns Americans.

"He is trying to create doubts in America's mind that this war is worth the cost," Kohlmann said.

Bin Laden's latest statement was a selective reading of history.

Internal problems and U.S. help, not just the Arab "holy warriors," contributed to the collapse of the Soviet empire in Afghanistan. The U.S. economy was experiencing trouble before Sept. 11.



AL-JAZEERA AP

In a full transcript of Osama bin Laden's recent video broadcast made available Monday, bin Laden says each \$1 al-Qaida spent on strikes has cost the United States \$1 million in economic fallout.

Dutch filmmaker who criticized Islam slain in Amsterdam; suspect arrested

BY TOBY STERLING
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A filmmaker who is a relative of the painter Vincent van Gogh was slain in an Amsterdam street Tuesday after receiving death threats over a movie he made criticizing the treatment of women under Islam.

A suspect, a 26-year-old man with dual Dutch-Moroccan nationality, was arrested after a shoot-out with officers that left him wounded, police said.

Filmmaker Theo van Gogh had been threatened after the August airing of the movie "Submission,"

which he made with a right-wing Dutch politician who had renounced the Islamic faith of her birth.

In a recent radio interview, the 47-year-old Van Gogh — who is the great-grandson of the brother of Vincent van Gogh, who was also named Theo — dismissed the threats and called the movie "the best protection I could



Van Gogh

have. It's not something I worry about."

Police said Van Gogh's killer shot and stabbed his victim and left a note on his body. They declined to comment on reports that Van Gogh's neck was slashed.

The attacker fled to the nearby East Park, and was arrested after exchanging gunfire with police, police spokesman Eric Vermeulen said. Both the suspect and a policeman suffered minor injuries.

"Submission" told the fictional story of a Muslim woman forced into a violent marriage, raped by a relative and brutally punished for adultery.

Israel destroys home of teenage bomber

BY ALI DARAGHMEH
The Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank — Israeli troops on Tuesday destroyed the homes of a teen suicide bomber and two men who had dispatched him to a crowded Tel Aviv outdoor market where he killed three Israelis and wounded 32.

The relatively muted response came after Israel pledged self-restraint in the wake of Yasser Arafat's illness.

The usual signs of an imminent Israeli military onslaught were absent this time — the hurried high-level security meetings and troop movements — and it appeared that Israel would not hit back as it has in the past.

Troops razed the home of the bomber, 16-year-old Eli Amer Alfai, and damaged four nearby housing houses in the crowded Askar refugee camp near Nablus, witnesses said.

Alfai's family of 12 had already removed belongings, knowing that Israel routinely destroys the homes of those involved in attacks against Israelis as a deterrent.

The army also destroyed the homes of two senior members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The military said they dispatched the bomber. The radical PLO faction claimed responsibility for Monday's blast.

The bomber was only 16 years old, one of the youngest Palestin-

Arafat's health

PARIS — Conflicting reports emerged Tuesday about the seriousness of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's illness, as a fifth day of medical tests got under way at a French military hospital that specializes in blood disorders.

One source who said he had been briefed on Arafat's status said the condition was "fatal" — but he gave no further details and the claim could not be confirmed.

A leading Israeli newspaper, meanwhile, cited Western intelligence sources described as credible as saying Arafat's life was in "no immediate danger" and that he was suffering from a very serious infection.

The confusion stems in large part from a refusal by the French medical team at Percy Military Teaching Hospital to comment on Arafat's condition.

From The Associated Press

ian suicide bombers, and his parents lashed out at the militants who recruited him.

"It's immoral to send someone so young," said Samir Abdullah, 45, Alfai's mother. The military said the 117th suicide bomber since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 2000. In all, 494 Israelis have been killed in the attacks.

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UAE president dies

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The president of the United Arab Emirates, who helped forge a federation from seven backward Persian Gulf states and built it into a high-tech crossroads of gleaming skyscrapers, has died. He was 86.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan — the absolute ruler of the

country, the world's ninth largest oil producer, for more than 30 years — had been ailing for several years. He had a kidney transplant in August 2000.

His eldest son, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has been heir apparent since 1969, when his father named him crown prince of Abu Dhabi, the capital and richest of the seven emirates.

From The Associated Press

OPINION

The moment the machine reverses direction

BY MICHAEL KINSLEY

Los Angeles Times

There's a poignant moment for the American political conversation around dinner time on Election Day. The polls are closing, but the results aren't yet in. Or, more likely, everybody you see on TV already knows the likely result thanks to exit polls, which — in a nutty exercise of misplaced high-mindedness — they don't share with the public.

In any event, for politicians and political journalists, there are about 10 seconds when there is truly nothing to say.

It's like the moment of stillness at the top of an amusement park ride, before you plunge back into the cacophony. And the cause is similar too: The machine is reversing direction.

Before the election, the conversation is all about small things.

Political consultants and opposition researchers dredge up or invent some little factoid from the other guy's past, or they package a few quotes and a few votes into an unflattering assessment of an opponent's character, and politicians build a campaign around it. They may even sincerely believe it.

Political reporters and commentators get sucked in. They may deplore the disproportionate discussion of matters like whether John Kerry threw away his medals or his ribbons, but they can't simply ignore such issues if the candidates or their surrogates choose to focus on them. And sometimes the press itself takes a trivial issue and runs with it, such as the sexual preference of Dick Cheney's daughter Mary.

The voters, for that matter, may deplore the misplaced emphasis on the absence of "real issues," but the press only foist this stuff on the citizenry because, apparently, it works.

As Election Day approached, the campaign became increasingly about itself, like the old "Seinfeld" show. The charges and countercharges focused on the charges and countercharges.

How can you trust someone who would call me a liar for what I said about him? A candidate's offhand remark or offbeat facial expression can sustain the cable TV news channels for a couple of news cycles.

Among the commentators, prestige attaches to obscurity. Dentists' surprising indifference to tort reform. A particular county whose voters have been in the majority every election except seven since 1836. The key — and overlooked! — campaign role of the first lady's manicurist.

On Election Day itself, the commentators might as well be slicing open a goat or consulting the oracle at Delphi. Bush will win if it rains in Ohio. Long lines at polling places are good news for Kerry. If your cat coughs up a fur ball while watching Fox News, that means the election will be thrown into the House of Representatives.

Then 10 seconds of silence, and the chatter resumes. The votes are in, the results are known, a winner has been declared. (Or so we hope.) But now the premise of the election is completely different. Smallness is out, largeness is all.

The candidate who has spent most of the last six months urging you to vote for him because his opponent wears a brown belt with black shoes now declares that his victory represents the death knell for liberalism in all its manifestations.

Political consultants who have pocketed millions in fees for growing hydroponic issues in their Washington, D.C., laboratories now dismiss all that as "static" through which the American people have heard and responded to a clear call for war or for peace or for national health insurance right now.



For the pundits, this is the moment to bring out their Gibbon, or their Tocqueville. For the cable news network bookers, this is a moment to try to find this guy Gibbon everybody is talking about (Tocqueville sounds like he might have a foreign accent), a time to discover that he has been dead for 200 years, and a time to settle for Douglas Brinkley instead.

Details are out, generalities are in. Columnists in a mood to show off no longer assert that the Nebraska Republican primary holds the key to everything. Instead, they assert that the election's meaning cannot be grasped until it is understood that the vote was, in its essence, a referendum on whether life has any meaning and that the conclusion was a ringing "perhaps."

The eagerness to generalize about the meaning of the election is especially peculiar since everyone involved was still busy the weekend before the election predicting that the vote will be terribly close.

The 2000 election was the *reductio ad absurdum* of this tendency. The ultimate victory actually got fewer votes than the guy he best. But that didn't stop the victor from claiming a mandate for his entire agenda, or the pundits from brooding about the continuing historical decline of the loser's ideology.

After a year or more of this election campaign, you may feel as if you're drowning in the triviality of it all. Just hold on, and you'll be swept up in history.

Then you'll really be sorry.

Michael Kinsley is the Times' editorial and opinion editor.

Terror acts united America, but we've lost our way

WASHINGTON I left this global symbol of America and its promise — ironically against a backdrop of overcast skies and terrestrial political storms — I wondered about the fate of the nation after a brutal election season.

John C. Bersia



And I thought long and hard about a question that was raised during more than one discussion: Can we truly hope to succeed in a war against the terrorists who challenge us, united in their convictions and sense of purpose, when we differ, divided and distrustful of

each other? That question occupies a key position among the most important concerns in the long, difficult battle with terrorism that lies ahead.

Hard-core global terrorists, such as the al-Qaida network, who total perhaps 150,000 and who may draw loose support from several million others, barely register as a percentage of the world's population. And, of course, they do not represent a monolith of thought and behavior.

But what they lack in numbers, they make up for in zeal, creativity and persistence. The United States would stand a better chance of beating back the terrorists if it had held on to the unity that visited the nation once so briefly after Sept. 11, 2001.

For a moment, Americans were as unified in their convictions and sense of purpose as the terrorists. And those miscre-

ants — from the leaders down to the rank-and-file members — saw the collective resolve very dramatically in the United States' launching of an overdue war against terrorism.

In Afghanistan, where Washington and its allies unleashed the first sweeping counterattack, people had grown accustomed to a lethargic America that reared its head occasionally to snap back after terrorist provocations. For a moment, the terrorists and their sponsors lost their balance, disrupted by a level of ferocity and focus that they had failed to anticipate.

But U.S. unity quickly gave way to the more familiar American firm-fire-pointing and bashing, even to the point that some critics reached the stupefying conclusion that the terrorist threat shaped up as little more than a nuisance, that a war footing for the United States amounted to an overreaction.

Political campaigns this year have carried the ugliness and nastiness into other topics and to dizzying heights. America's house appears more deeply divided than at any time in recent memory, including the Vietnam War period.

I cannot accept, however, that Americans' core values, which range far and wide across the populace, have taken such divergent paths. My impression is that Americans, as in many cultures around the world, tend more toward moderation than to the extreme perspectives that appear to have hijacked both the Democratic Party

and the Republican Party.

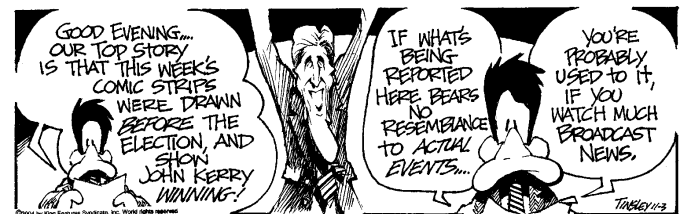
Americans often express surprise about the largely silent majority in other countries and cultures where extremists seize attention and influence. What about here? My guess is that if the moderates among Democrats and Republicans, who concern far more than they differ, took an active role — perhaps by joining forces to create their own political party — they would command a powerful majority.

But that issue belongs to the future. The main challenge after Tuesday — whether George W. Bush or John Kerry wins the popular and Electoral College nods — is to restore America's lost unity before al-Qaida's next attack.

John C. Bersia is an Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel columnist.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Tinsley 11/3

Toddler rescued

AL FRISCO CITY — Rescue workers pulled a 22-month-old boy to safety after he was trapped for 13 hours in an abandoned well.

Authorities said the boy, Jerremie McMillan, was playing in a vacant lot with other children when he fell into the 14-foot well shortly after 4 p.m. Police used earth-moving equipment to dig a separate shaft, and workers were able to rescue the child about 5:15 a.m.

Mobile television station WKRG reported the youngster had scratches and bruises, according to paramedics and a doctor on the scene. He was taken to the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile for observation.

Plan for drought

AZ GRAND CANYON — The Bush administration says states that use the Colorado River need to develop a drought plan for the coming year.

Assistant Interior Secretary Bennett Haley says even the best scientists can't say when the West's dry spell will end.

Therefore, he says, the states that use the Colorado River must be prepared for a range of scenarios in the coming years.

He says they can't rely on any set of computer predictions, that even the best "modelers didn't predict the last five years of drought."

Pardon for witches

MA SALEM — Pardon those who were persecuted during the witch hysteria in this city in the 17th century "sounds like a good idea," the mayor said.

Stanley Usovich was intrigued by a Scottish township's plan to pardon 81 people who were executed for witchcraft there, The Salem News reported.

The township of Prestonsburg will pardon people — and their cats — who were executed during a wave of hysteria and religious ferment in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The pardons were to be granted under ancient feudal powers due to be abolished within weeks.

During Salem's witch scare in 1692, 19 people were hanged and one was pressed with heavy stones for allegedly practicing witchcraft. By the end of that year, 200 people were jailed under charges of witchcraft.

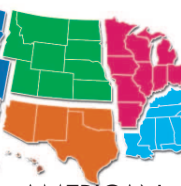
In 1957, many of the accused Salem witches were exonerated by the Massachusetts Legislature.

Usovich said one of the judges apologized for his role in the trials about eight years after they concluded, but he wasn't sure there had ever been an official declaration by the city.

Tower demolition

ME SCARBOROUGH — Demolition of a military observation tower built on Prouts Neck during World War II has begun despite this town's efforts to accommodate a new property owner who wanted to build a house.

The Scarborough Historical Society and Maine Historic Preservation Commission wanted the tower preserved, but the land owner has the legal right to tear it down, said town manager



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ron Owens.

Last fall, Charles Parkhurst of Greenwich, Conn., bought the land, including the tower and a seven-bedroom house, for \$3 million, according to land records.

The town put the demolition permit for the tower on hold when questions about the tower's historical significance arose. An adjacent house was razed last month.

Built in 1944, the boxy, steel-reinforced tower is one of dozens of military structures sprinkled along Maine's coast during war years as lookouts could watch for German vessels. It has sat unused for decades in a gated community.

Parkhurst, a financial analyst, said he considered putting the tower to some sort of use, possibly building a house around it. But he said the deed forbids construction on the tower's lot, which is larger than the tower's footprint.

Library flooded

HI HONOLULU — Water as high as eight feet rushed through the ground floor of the University of Hawaii's main research library during heavy rains, destroying irreplaceable documents and books, toppling doors and walls, tossing furniture and leaving inches of mud everywhere Sunday.

Several people were attending a small class meeting on the ground floor of Hamilton Library on Saturday night when the flash flood started around 9 p.m. and they had to knock out a window to escape, said



Hanging in there

Third-graders raise their hands to answer questions during class at Oasis Elementary School in Oasis, Calif. More than 90 percent of the school's 650 students are Hispanic and come from families surviving on less than \$10,000 a year.

university librarian Diane Perushke. No one was hurt, she said.

University officials canceled classes at the Manoa campus as the staff copes with the mess and debris left by flooding. There are no scheduled classes because of the Election Day holiday, but Interim President David McClain said faculty and staff are being asked to come to work.

Cop shoots partygoer

VA DALE CITY — A man who authorities say was the leader of a group that attacked two officers at a party was shot by police. Neighbors called police complaining of loud music at a house party. Two officers, who went to the home just before midnight, were attacked by a group of men at the party. Prince William County police said.

The group allegedly pinned the officer in a corner of the front porch, hit and started choking him. The unidentified officer fired a round that hit and killed Jose Leonides-Marquez, 31, of Silver Spring, Md.

The second officer, who also was being attacked, radioed for backup. Police said when other officers arrived, the men threw landscaping stones at them.

Charged with felony assault and battery on a police officer were Carlos Ernesto Marquez, 36, of Dale City; Freddy Armando Guerra, 41, of Hyattsville, Md.; Jorge H. Hernandez, 39, of no fixed address, and Francisco Miguel Perez, 27, of Silver Spring, Md.

The two officers have been placed on routine administrative leave during an investigation.

Bad place to nap

NJ GLEN RIDGE — A man who broke into a woman's house helped himself to some food and wine, then settled in for a nap — until police arrested him.

The woman called police to report something odd at her home.

The first officers to arrive saw an open kitchen window, with the curtain on the grass outside. They also found a black leather jacket, a plaid flannel shirt, a red baseball cap, and three unopened bottles of wine.

The officers searched the house, finally finding the man asleep on the basement floor holding a bowl of food the woman said was from her refrigerator, police Chief John Magnier said. The suspect was handcuffed and arrested.

O'Hare flight capacity

IL CHICAGO — A federal study lowered the number of flights that O'Hare International Airport can handle without creating gridlock. At the same time, 37 daily flights were cut as a deal with the airlines went into effect.

The Federal Aviation Administration said O'Hare can handle 190 to 200 arrivals and departures each hour in excellent or marginal weather without creating delays. A 2001 FAA study had recommended a maximum of 200 to 202 flights an hour under those conditions.

When visibility is poor, the airport can handle fewer flights, a maximum of 136 to 144 per hour, according to the new study. The 2001 study had recommended 157 to 160.



Leaf peeping A biker makes his way under a golden canopy of leaves along the South County Trail north of Macy Park in Ardsley, New York.



Just fruity The wackiness of Fantasy Fest is demonstrated by David Frost of Annapolis, Md., left, Paul Cianfrano of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Alex Frost of Annapolis as they stroll down Duval Street in Key West, Fla., on Saturday, attired as icons of an underwear company. The celebration is expected to draw 60,000 revelers.



Great pumpkins Balford Duggan, 95, talks about the two varieties of pumpkins that he grows from seeds passed down in his family since the Civil War in Sevierville, Tenn. He calls them pie pumpkins. They grow behind his house between rows of corn, right next to his turnip patch.



Puppy love Patrick Koch, left, dressed as a minister and with New Horizons Service Dogs Inc., "marries" Patriot, the groom, and Carley, the bride, at the DeLand Animal Hospital's open house in DeLand, Fla. Both 1-year-old golden retrievers are in training to be service dogs.



Surf's up Bethany Hamilton surfs in Heat No. 4 of the Explorers Women division of the national Scholastic Surfing Association meet at Banyans surf spot in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Hamilton lost her left arm in a shark attack one year ago while surfing off the North Shore of Kauai.



Up, up, away Members of the Hot Shots Balloon crew sail over Carson City, Nev., in preparation for the Nevada Day Parade.



Just married Tom Loveday cradles his bride, Lena Scott, after the Homestead, Fla., couple exchanged vows underwater in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, about six miles off Key Largo, Fla. Included in the wedding party were 112 other divers. The event will be submitted to Guinness World Records to break the current largest underwater wedding mark.

Alcohol referendum

NY WILLIAMSON — William-son was until recent years one of a few towns in the state that prohibited the sale of alcohol.

The Monroe County town allowed no taverns, prohibited beer from being sold at convenience stores and mandated that no wine be sold in the restaurants.

But residents in 1996 voted to change laws on the books for decades to allow beer and wine coolers to be sold in grocery stores.

So voters here will be faced with four more propositions that, if passed, will further loosen restrictions to sell and serve alcohol in the town.

The propositions would allow restaurants to serve alcohol, farms to get winery licenses and liquor stores to open. Bars and taverns would still be banned.

Sweets for troops

MT BILLINGS — A local dentist has hit on a sweet idea: He plans to keep local kids from eating too much candy and gather sweets for the troops in Iraq.

Dr. Michael Stuart said he'll be at the Kmart parking lot by candy from trick-or-treaters for \$1 per pound.

Flyers advertising the offer have been distributed to about 20 elementary schools in the Billings area.

Stuart, a father of seven, said he doesn't expect the kids to turn over all of their goodies.

"We'll expect the children to pick out the good stuff they like and bring us the remainder," he said.

Lisa Kreiger, who handles patient services for the dental practice, said she and other staff members have worked on the project since September. The staff also is working with Oral B and the United Way to get toothbrushes to send to the troops, along with the candy.

Stuart said the buyback will offer kids money, keep them from eating too much candy and "it will bring a smile to the faces of our troops."

River gets a boost

NV RENO — A string of early season storms has boosted the flow of the Truckee River and allowed local water officials to halt all use of drought reserves. For the first time in a decade, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority recently was forced to tap into backup water supplies after continued drought lowered Lake Tahoe below its spillway. Storms that dumped up to 6 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada over the last two weeks of October have swelled the river's flow to meet water demand.

Heart puts trial on hold

VT BENNINGTON — A retired New York police investigator accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl at his Landgrove vacation home 17 years ago will still go on trial if he successfully undergoes a heart transplant.

Leonard Forte, 63, was convicted by a jury in 1988, but the conviction was overturned.

He suffered a series of heart attacks in the wake of the jury's verdict. In 1997, the Vermont attorney general's office conceded that the stress of a new trial would endanger Forte's life.

And so prosecutors have been biding their time while Forte waits for a heart transplant.

Church van flips

TX KILGORE — Two people remained hospitalized after a church van flipped over on Interstate 20 in East Texas, injuring a total of 14 occupants.

State troopers said the van carrying members of the Holy Prayer Apostolic Church to Kilgore was eastbound Sunday on I-20 when it left the roadway and the driver apparently overcorrected, causing the vehicle to flip numerous times, coming to rest in the median 1 mile west of the U.S. Highway 259 exchange.

Several passengers were thrown from the van, said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Adam Bell.

"All 14 passengers have been transported to hospitals for injuries ranging from minor to critical," Bell told the Tyler Morning Telegraph in Monday's online edition.

Two victims remained at Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport, said hospital spokeswoman Carmel Van Dyke. She said one patient was in fair condition and the other was still being evaluated.

Back on the beach

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — The last time anyone likely saw sailors marching in daily formations at Oceana Naval Air Station, it was just after World War II. Now, partly due to Hurricane Ivan, marching is back. The hurricane damaged the Navy's traditional seat of aviation training in Pensacola, Fla., in mid-September. So some recruits who were to begin training there are instead attending a new school at Oceana.

The heat is on, and costly

MN ST. PAUL — Minnesotans will soon reach for the thermostat, and it'll cost them more when they do. Xcel Energy Inc. is saying its residential customers could see rate increases of up to 35 percent between now and the end of March. CenterPoint Energy Minnegasco projects an 18 percent increase over the same period.

State officials estimate a typical residential gas customer will pay about \$127 for fuel next month versus \$96.30 last November.

Dessert wars

PA BELSANO — Forget "Kramer vs. Kramer." A legal fight brewing between doughnut maker Krispy Kreme and a seasonal ice cream stand could be called "Kreme vs. Kream."

Jack and Christine Hoover have run the Krispy Kream stand in Cambria County's Blacklick Township since 1968, keeping the name that had been in use since the stand opened in 1961.

Recently, the Hoovers received a letter from Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Inc. complaining of trademark infringement and indicating that more "formal steps" would be taken if they don't stop using their name.

The Winston-Salem, N.C., based Krispy Kreme registered its name in 1951.

The Hoovers have hired a lawyer hoping to kill the doughnut company, but they worry that Krispy Kreme's dough may prevail.

Stories and pictures from wire reports

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://my.afm.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2004

AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MIDWEST	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Midwives" (2001) Sissy Spook. A midwife is charged with her patient's death.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30 Sawtooth-Siam Cat		(9:30) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Food 101	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		(3:30) Guiding Light	ESPNNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Sensational Chic	ESPNNews
10:30 Between the Lions (E)	(4:45) Movie *** "Batman Returns" (1992, Adventure) Michael Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer. The Catwoman and the Penguin join forces against Batman.	(17) General Hospital	The Doctors	CNN Daybreak		Fashion File	Headline News
11:00 Stanley		Headline News	Arrested Development	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	ST News Live	The Doctors
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Judge Judy	America's Next Top Model			The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:30 The Wiggles						That '70s Show	America's Next Top Model
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The Great Gatsby" (2000) Michael Gough. Jay Gatsby's American dream is crushed by a socialite.	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding: on-aironatic ad.	Las Vegas 'Nevada State'	Good Morning America	Sports	Girlfriends 'Into the Woods'	Las Vegas 'Nevada State'
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)			Pacific Report	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding: on-aironatic ad.		Charm'd 'All Hall Brakes'	The Doctors
14:00 Blue's Clues (E)			The Tonight Show	Headline News		Ally McBeal 'Only the Lonely'	Pacific Report
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)				Headline News		Any Day Now 'Who Abandoned Who?'	The Tonight Show
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	(2:45) Movie *** "Pretty Women" (1990) Richard Gere. An executive plays Pygmalion to a young streetwalker.	Sylvester & Tweety	Headline News	Channel One	Baseball Tonight	ER 'Famagale'	Headline News
15:30 Full House		Boyz n the City	Late Show	The Early Show	SportsCenter	Law & Order 'Passion'	The Late Show
16:00 Pokémon		My Life as a Teenage Robot	The Late Late Show	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	The Simpsons	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 3)		Headline News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	Totally NASCAR	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
17:00 Hey Arnold!	Reese Witherspoon Revealed	Jeopardy!		FOX News	SportsCenter	Real Fear	Countdown With Keith Olsen
17:30 Rocket Power	Coming Attractions	Headline News		FOX News	NFL Total Access	Andromeda 'Lava and Rock-ets'	Countdown With Keith Olsen
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News		FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Discovery Special: Sky-scraper at Sea	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News		FOX News	Totally NASCAR	Friends	Headline News
19:00 Even Stevens 'Scrub Day'	Movie *** "The Mummy Returns" (2001, Adventure) Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz. Rick O'Connell's previous son.	The Parkers	Countdown With Keith Olsen	FOX News	SportsCenter	Seinfeld	Headline News
19:30 Kenan & Kel	Coming Attractions	Arrested Development	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Total Access	Friends	Headline News
20:00 Gilmore Girls 'Rory's Dance'	Part 1 of 2	America's Next Top Model	The Hot List	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Seinfeld	Headline News
20:30 The Wiggles 'Animals'		Las Vegas 'Nevada State'	Headline News	FOX News	Totally NASCAR	Seinfeld	Headline News
21:00 Degassi: Next	(22) The Three Stooges	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Seinfeld	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show 'Man Talk'		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Totally NASCAR	Seinfeld	Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	Headline News	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Seinfeld	Headline News
23:00 Youched by an Angel 'Into the Light'	Movie *** "Soldier's Story" (1984) Adolph Caesar	Late Show	Headline News	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Seinfeld	Headline News

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2004

00:00 Hey Arnold!	(11:00) Movie *** "A Soldier's Story" (1984, Drama)	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Seams	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Seams
00:30 Rocket Power	(2:45) Movie *** "Bridget Jones's Diary" (2001, Comedy) Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Fear Factor	Bear in the Big Blue House
01:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	(3:30) Movie *** "Bridget Jones's Diary" (2001, Comedy) Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant.	Sports	Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
1:30 Rugrats 'Princess Angelica'			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
2:00 Even Stevens 'Scrub Day'			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
2:30 Kenan & Kel	Coming Attractions		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
3:00 Gilmore Girls 'Rory's Dance'	Part 1 of 2		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
3:30 The Wiggles 'Animals'			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
4:00 Degassi: Next			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
4:30 Degassi: Next			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
5:00 Seams Street (E)			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)	(22) The Three Stooges		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
6:00 Blue's Clues Body Parts			Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
6:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Reese Witherspoon Revealed		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
7:00 Bob the Builder	Reese Witherspoon		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
7:30 The Wiggles 'Animals'	Coming Attractions		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
8:00 Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight		Wheel of Fortune	NBC Nightly News	Sports		Wheel of Fortune
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Full Circle" (1996, Drama) Tim Polk, Corbin Bernsen, Reed Diamond.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30 Sawtooth-Siam Cat		Headline News	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Low Carb & Lovin' It	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		(9:45) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNNews
10:30 Between the Lions (E)	(4:45) Movie *** "Suspect" (1987, Drama) Gary, Dennis Quaid, Liam Neeson. A public defender becomes involved with an overzealous juror.	(3:30) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Style Star	Headline News
11:00 Stanley		(17) General Hospital	Will & Grace	60 Minutes II	Baseball Tonight	The King of Queens	Will & Grace
11:30 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	The Bachelor	60 Minutes II	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	The Bachelor
12:00 The Wiggles		Judge Judy		60 Minutes II		Girlfriends	Headline News
12:30 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Fried Green Tomatoes" (1991, Comedy) Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson.	Today Lauren Bacall.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'Eleven Angry Jurors'	Good Morning America	Sports	Charm'd 'Charm'd Again' (Part 1 of 2)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'Eleven Angry Jurors'
13:00 Dragon Tales (E)			The Tonight Show	Headline News		Ally McBeal 'The Green Man'	Pacific Report
14:00 Blue's Clues Cleaning up				Headline News		Any Day Now 'Hopes'	The Tonight Show
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	(3:55) Movie *** "Duel in the Blue Dress" (1995, Mystery) Denzel Washington, Tom Sizemore, Jennifer Beals.	The Legend of Tarzan	Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	Baseball Tonight	ER 'Four Corners'	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos			Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	Totally NASCAR	Law & Order 'Past Imperfect'	Access Hollywood
15:30 Full House			Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	SportsCenter	Law & Order 'Past Imperfect'	Headline News
16:00 Pokémon			Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	FOX News	The Simpsons	The Late Show
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 3 of 3)			Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	Baseball Tonight	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
17:00 Hey Arnold!	Screen Play		Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	Sports	Summerland 'Pilot/And So the Day Begins'	Countdown With Keith Olsen
17:30 Rocket Power	Ebert-Movies		Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	FOX News	The Practice 'The Tollable Note'	Entertainment Studios.com
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight		Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	Baseball Tonight	48 Hours Mystery	The Hot List
18:30 Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight		Aashli! Real Monsters	Channel One	Sports	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
19:00 That So Raven	Movie *** "Dances With Wolves" (1990, Western) Kevin Costner, Mary McDonnell, Graham Greene. A U.S. Cavalry scout's vision of the American frontier.	Two and a Half Men	Countdown With Keith Olsen	Headline News	NFL Total Access	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
19:30 All That		Will & Grace	The Bachelor	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
20:00 7th Heaven 'Lost Souls'		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
20:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show	(1:55) Movie *** "Path to War" (2003) Michael Gambon. Advisers push President Johnson to step up the Vietnam War.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News
23:00 Youched by an Angel 'Homecoming' (Part 1 of 2)		Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Today Lauren Bacall.	Headline News

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Horoscope

With the lunar influence in Cancer this morning, our patriotic spirit is still strong, whether or not we were on the winning side of the election. All things American will be the main topic of conversation throughout the day. The moon enters Leo this evening, and some grandstanding is to be expected, both from our leaders and our immediate family.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 3). You have many talents, but one will put you in the spotlight this year. Expect a big raise or promotion in April to elevate your status in the workplace. You will probably see family in the summer when you take a trip to celebrate a wedding or birth. A big purchase also is in the cards for you this winter. Lucky love signs are Leo and Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Sometimes life's shadows are caused by our standing in our own sunshine." Take those words of wisdom to heart, and get out of your own way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Master your own bliss. Wherever you go, be alert for signs of beauty and anything to lift your spirit — a stranger's smile, a pretty tree, an interesting cloud formation. The world is filled with simple joys.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Your brain is like a computer. You can only take in so much information before you need to sort it out. Take some time out, and just relax.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Fantasizing about fame and fortune is a pleasant distraction, but don't let it keep you from dealing in reality. If it's a new love that has you floating on air, remember that what goes up must eventually come down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being independent is all well and good, but someone close to you needs to feel needed. He or she may feel you're so in control that he/she is unnecessary

in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You hate to leave with work sitting in your in-box. No matter how much is piled on, you will talk like a fiend until everything is completed and neatly filed away in its place. Understand your limitations, and lighten up on yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're beating yourself up over nothing. All those embarrassing moments you wish you could do over are not going to matter one iota in the long run. In fact, someone thinks your quips are incredibly charming.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You win some, you lose some.

What's important is that you live to fight another day, so if you're really losing the fight, get the heck out of there. Sometimes, it's much better to retreat a foot than to advance an inch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The key to your financial success on a particular project may depend upon your ability to humble yourself. Since you're used to calling all the shots, and you hate asking for favors, it will be very tough, but try.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

To greet the day with fresh eyes is to know real happiness. What would you do if you were a guest in your home instead of the owner? You'd probably treat the people and possessions there with more care and respect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

It's obvious that you're the favorite among power people and could be granted special privileges. Stay humble. If you speak softly, they'll have to lean in close and really listen — especially when you're dealing with a Cancer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Major changes are about, so prepare to be put to the test. Once you make it through to the other side, you'll be ready to party, and you'll have plenty to celebrate. A new job and possibly a new relationship are in the stars for you.

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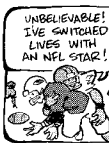
Joyce Jillson



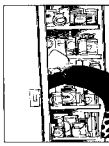
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



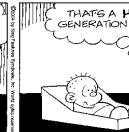
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Cathy



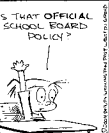
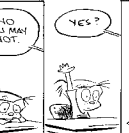
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



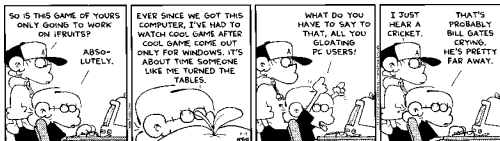
To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



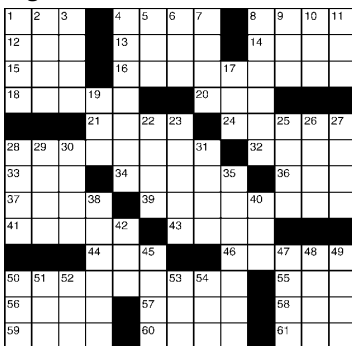
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Performance
- 4 Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist
- 8 Arrived
- 12 Halloween shout
- 13 Deserve
- 14 In due time
- 15 Shade provider
- 16 Very competitive
- 18 Forbidden
- 20 Victory
- 21 Tool used to incite
- 24 Morris' nine
- 28 Hall & Oates hit
- 32 Saucy
- 33 "Hall, Caesar!"
- 34 Bulgaria's capital
- 36 Diva's downfall, maybe
- 37 Hair salon request
- 39 Accepts defeat
- 41 Tonto's horse
- 43 Cantina order
- 44 Try the Tokyo
- 46 Display abundantly
- 50 Like some clothes
- 55 Flushed
- 56 Exceptional
- 57 Requirement
- 58 Joke
- 59 Pallet
- 60 Guys' partners
- 61 Nevada town

Down

- 1 Help a hood
- 2 Soft drink choice
- 3 The Taj Mahal, basically
- 4 Hats
- 5 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 6 Work unit
- 7 From square one
- 8 Treat for Tabby
- 9 "What's your point?"
- 10 Jane Smiley novel
- 11 Chang's closest relative
- 17 Have a bug
- 19 Unclash, poetically
- 22 Nebraska county
- 23 Make diet-friendly
- 25 Sverre
- 26 Therefore
- 27 Pack away
- 28 Navigator's stack
- 29 Opposite of "sans"
- 30 Pianist Peter
- 31 Comedian Rudner
- 35 Climbs
- 38 Reduced to crumbs
- 40 Actress Courteney
- 42 Dead heat
- 43 Three
- 47 Impulsive force point?
- 48 Transaction
- 49 Boldly
- 50 "—, Doubtfire"
- 51 Eastwhile acorn
- 52 One of the Ts in TNT
- 53 Mad Hatter's quaff
- 54 Silithy one

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-3 CRYPTOQUIP

C D F M E I Y B J E " K ' W

H F M L K M T W E T P J L F M

M I C ! " K G Y Z Z I G F H D P ' G

P C F F L K M T P M M I Y B F W F M H .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A RUNNER
CHOOSSES ILL-FITTING SHOES, SHE COULD
EASILY FEEL THE AGONY OF DE-FEET.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals N

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Jobs Offered

630

Do You Want To Earn Some Extra Cash?

Sub-Contractor position open:
European Stars and Stripes Daily Home Delivery

Pick up: Holiday Inn- Waldorf (Heidelberg Area)
Drop off: Hockenheim, Reitingen, Waldorf

Also:
Pick up: Heidelberg PHV- Burger King
Drop off: Leimen, Sandhausen, St. Ilgen, Nussloch

*** Vehicle Required for this position***

For more details please call:

James. P. Afflerbach
District Manager: Civ: 0172-6707-347

Part-time On-Site PC Technician/Help Desk Support

CLIN 0001AB-PT
General Job Description

- Provide on-call, on-site support. Response as soon as practical but not later than close of business on the following business day.
- Provide daily rotation of all server backup tapes.
- On-site customer support for PC desktops and workstations. Provide assistance to network engineers for server, or network infrastructure services that are coordinated with the DoDDESE Customer Service Support Center (CSSC).
- All services in this position will be on a per-call basis and based on Trouble Tickets issued by the DoDDESE CSSC.
- Services include but are not limited to: install, maintain, troubleshoot, diagnose, and test equipment such as, workstations, printers, scanners, and other peripheral equipment.
- Coordinate hardware warranty support that may require replacement of defective parts or installation of new parts.
- Perform workstation configuration changes or operating system updates, image-in-image workstations, install and configure software on workstations, rotate data backup tapes or other data storage media, report server console error messages, and assist other technical support staff to resolve server or network infrastructure problems.

Supporting DoDDESE schools throughout Europe.
(Germany, Italy, UK, Iceland, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium)

Pay:
• \$200 per month retainer
• \$25 per hour for trouble calls

Interested persons should send their resume to:
Gloria Navarro-McDermott, Human Resources Manager
HRDHW@COK.NET



FC Business Systems, Inc. (FCBS), a leading engineering and IT services company, is currently recruiting for the following contract positions to support the operation of the deployed Communication and Information Systems (CIS) from the NATO Network Control Centre at SHAPE (Belgium-Castellu):

Telecommunications Engineer

Requires a university degree or equivalent education level in Telecommunications or related field plus minimum two years of practical experience in operating or controlling transmission systems, including multiplexing equipment, or remote monitoring and control of a geographically distributed automated system.

Telecommunications Technician

Requires a higher secondary education and intermediate/advanced vocational training with at least one year experience in remotely controlling a geographically dispersed automated system, and a sound telecommunications background with a minimum of one-year experience in the management or installation of data communications equipment. Shift work required.

Information Systems Engineer

Requires a university degree, or equivalent education level, in Telecommunications or related field, plus minimum two years practical experience in LAN/WAN computer networking; and operating/controlling information system WAN, or remote monitoring and control of a geographically distributed automated system.

All positions are non-TESA and require an active SECRET clearance.

Please send all resumes to careers@fcbs.com and visit us at www.fcbs.com to learn more about the company.



Ansbach's Brittney Britton spikes the ball for a point against Baumholder during a DODDS high school volleyball match in Baumholder, Germany, on Oct. 4.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes

Smaller schools get a chance with fourth volleyball division

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

Four championships will be on the line Thursday through Saturday in the DODDS-Europe girls high school volleyball championships hosted by the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

European titles for Division I, II and III will go on as scheduled, but this year for the first time, high school athletic officials have created a Division IV for the system's eight smallest schools: Alconbury, Ankara, Brussels, Incirlik, Iceland, Lajes, Menwith Hill and Milan.

In the past, those teams vied with nine other Division III schools in regional tournaments which produced a six-team European Division III field.

This year, for competitive and financial reasons, the regionals were abandoned in favor of bringing all schools to Germany for the European tournament, according to DODDS-Europe athletic director Karen Seadore.

"It's a pilot program for us," Seadore said of the all-embracing concept adopted this school year for cross country, volleyball and basketball. "Before, we had been funding travel for all teams to the regionals, then turned around and funded travel to the Europeans."

"Last spring, the athletic council decided it would be feasible to do away with the regionals and bring all teams to Germany for the Europeans instead."

What: DODDS volleyball championships. When: Thursday through Saturday. Top seeds: Division I — Ramstein; Division II — Aviano; Division III — Baumholder; Division IV — Alconbury. Schedule: Play begins at 9 a.m. Thursday and Friday at Miesau, Sembach, Kaiserslautern and Vogelweh. The championship games, starting with Division IV, will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at Vogelweh.

The new concept met with general approval at last Saturday's European cross country championships, where Division IV's Lajes girls won a team trophy they might not have won if pitted against the larger Division III schools.

Seadore expects the concept to work as well this week. "It's a great opportunity for the athletes," Seadore said, "and a chance for us to get all our coaches together at one time."

The extra division isn't the only change this season. By eliminating the Mediterranean Regional and bringing all the teams playing in Turkey and Italy to Germany, teams such as Aviano and Naples, whose environments approach Division II levels, will play for the Division II instead of the Division III crown.

Aviano coach Hans Hillestad, whose Saints have won the Italy championship for the past five years, said he welcomes the new format.

"It's really exciting to have all the teams from all divisions in one place," he said. "It should be very competitive."

Unbeaten Aviano, which has played in the Division III European title game two of the past three years, earned the top seed this season in Division II on the basis of its victories last month against visiting Vilseck, the Division II regular-season champ, and Division II runner-up Patch. Pool-play in Division II is scheduled to begin Thursday and Friday at 9 a.m. at Miesau, with the championship game set for Vogelweh gym in Kaiserslautern at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Ramstein, unbeaten in Division I play, takes the top seed for the big schools, who'll play their pool games Thursday and Friday in Sembach, beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day. The Division I title game is supposed to get under way at Vogelweh at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Baumholder nailed down the top seed in Division III, which will conduct its pool play at Kaiserslautern High School, Vogelweh and Ramstein's Southside Gym beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday and Friday. Division III will determine its champion at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Vogelweh.

Alconbury is the No. 1 seed in Division IV, which is to conduct its pool play at Vogelweh beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday and Friday. The championship game will start Saturday's quadrupleheader at Vogelweh at 11 a.m.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mal.estripes.osd.mil

SCOREBOARD

AFN- & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Pro basketball: Sacramento at Dallas (dis).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College football: Toledo at Miami (Ohio) (dis).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.—Pro basketball: The Touch Championship Preview Show (dis).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Pro basketball: Houston at Detroit (dis).

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.—Pro basketball: Denver at L.A. Lakers (dis).

Thursday

AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.—College football: South Florida at Alabama (Birmingham).

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—Pro basketball: Miami at L.A. Lakers (dis).

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—Pro basketball: L.A. Lakers at Miami (dis).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College football: Stanford at USC (dis).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Pro football: NFL Films at New Jersey (dis).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—Pro football: NFL Films at New Jersey (dis).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—Golf: The Tour Championship, first round.

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Nov. 4

Saturday, Nov. 6

No. 1 Southern Cal. at Oregon State
No. 2 Oklahoma at No. 2 Texas A&M
No. 3 Michigan vs. Oregon
No. 4 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota
No. 5 Texas vs. No. 19 Oklahoma State
No. 7 Utah vs. Colorado State
No. 8 Kentucky at Kentucky
No. 9 Tennessee vs. Notre Dame
No. 10 Virginia vs. Clemson
No. 12 Virginia vs. Maryland
No. 13 Virginia State vs. Duke
No. 15 West Virginia vs. Temple
No. 18 Virginia Tech at North Carolina
No. 20 Iowa vs. Purdue
No. 21 Southern Mississippi vs. Cincinnati
No. 23 Arizona State at Stanford
No. 24 Boston College vs. Rutgers

Division I-AA Top 25

PHILADELPHIA—The Top 25 teams in the Sports Network Division I-AA football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 31 and previous rank:

Record Pts

1. Southern Illinois (79) 3-1
2. Georgia Southern (28) 3-1
3. Furman 3-1
4. Sam Houston State 3-1
5. Western Kentucky 3-1
6. Delaware 3-1
7. James Madison (1) 3-1
8. New Hampshire 3-1
9. Montana 3-1
10. North Carolina 3-1
11. Montana 3-1
12. North Carolina 3-1
13. Maryland 3-1
14. Hampton 3-1
15. Virginia Tech 3-1
16. Harvard 3-1
17. Pennsylvania State 3-1
18. Stephen F. Austin 3-1
19. Pennsylvania State 3-1
20. Pennsylvania State 3-1
21. Pennsylvania State 3-1
22. Pennsylvania State 3-1
23. Pennsylvania State 3-1
24. Pennsylvania State 3-1
25. Pennsylvania State 3-1

Division II Top 25

Nov. 2

1. Pittsburg State, Kan. (24) 10-0
2. North Dakota 9-0
3. Albany State, Ga. 9-0
4. North Dakota 9-0
5. Valdosta State, Ga. 8-1
6. North Dakota 8-1
7. South Dakota 8-1
8. Colorado School of Mines 7-1
9. Texas A&M-Kingsville 7-1
10. Montana State 7-1
11. North Dakota 7-1
12. North Dakota 7-1
13. North Dakota 7-1
14. North Dakota 7-1
15. North Dakota 7-1
16. North Dakota 7-1
17. North Dakota 7-1
18. North Dakota 7-1
19. North Dakota 7-1
20. North Dakota 7-1

Division III Top 25

Nov. 2

1. Mount Union, Ohio (38) 8-0
2. Mount Union, Ohio (38) 8-0
3. Hardin-Simmons, Texas 8-0
4. Hardin-Simmons, Texas 8-0
5. Salisbury, Md. 8-0
6. Salisbury, Md. 8-0
7. Concorde-Moorehead, Minn. 8-0
8. Delaware Valley, Pa. 8-0
9. Delaware Valley, Pa. 8-0
10. Hampden-Sydney, Va. 7-1
11. Whitelton, Ill. 7-1

14. St. John's, N.Y.	8-1	421	23
15. Rowan, N.J.	8-1	421	23
16. Mount St. Joseph, Ohio	8-1	421	23
17. Whitworth, Wash.	8-1	421	23
18. St. John's, N.Y.	8-1	421	23
19. Carthage, Wis.	8-1	421	23
20. St. John's, N.Y.	8-1	421	23
21. Wis.-Whitewater, Ohio	8-1	421	23
22. Ohio Northern	8-1	421	23
23. Ohio Northern	8-1	421	23
24. Bridgewater, Va.	7-2	128	28
25. College of New Jersey	6-3	128	28

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0
Toronto	0	0	0
Southeast Division			
Atlanta	0	0	0
Charlotte	0	0	0
Miami	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0
Central Division			
Chicago	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0
Indiana	0	0	0
Milwaukee	0	0	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	0	0	0
Golden State	0	0	0
Memphis	0	0	0
San Antonio	0	0	0
Northwest Division			
Denver	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0
Portland	0	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0
Pacific Division			
Golden State	0	0	0
L.A. Clippers	0	0	0
Phoenix	0	0	0
Sacramento	0	0	0

Tuesday's games
Houston at Dallas
Sacramento at Dallas
Denver at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games
Indiana at Cleveland
Houston at Toronto
Milwaukee at Orlando
Washington at Memphis
Miami at New Orleans
New York at Minnesota
Dallas at New Orleans
Sacramento at San Antonio
L.A. Lakers at Utah
Atlanta at Phoenix
Portland at Golden State
Washington at Charlotte
Cleveland at Miami
Minnesota at Denver
Ivite at the end of the season.

Tennis

Paris Masters
Monday
At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy
Paris
Surface: Hardwood
Singles
First round

Rubin Stedman, Sweden, def. Taylor Dent, United States, 6-4, 6-3.
Parandip Singh, Thailand, def. Marius Zundel, Argentina, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Mardy Fish, United States, def. David Ferrer, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Oliver Rochus, Belgium, def. Filippo Volandri, Italy, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Gael Monfils, France, def. Thomas Enqvist, Sweden, 6-3, 6-4.
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, def. Hicham Arazi, Tunisia, 6-3, 6-4.
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Juan Ignacio Carreras, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 5-7, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, France, def. Mario Ancic, Croatia, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

TANK McNAMARA

FOLKS ARE STILL SEATING IN 'GRUNT MOMENTS' ANALYSIS, HUH?

ANALYSTS HAVE A REALLY STRONG BACKUP ANALYSIS, HUH?

WHEN THE FIGURES BECOME MORE THAN 100,000, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO IS LESS THAN 100,000 POINTS. GROSSLY MISAPPLIED ANALYSIS.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Named Wally Backman manager.

CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with RHP Rickey Henderson, def. of Jim Thome on minor league contracts.

Bell Challenge

Monday
At Club Avantage Multi-Sports of Quebec
Quebec City
Surface: Hardwood
Singles
First round

Tamirane Tanasugarn (5, Thailand), def. Sandra Klovner, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2.
Lubomir Kucera (3, Slovakia), def. Aniko Karpas, Romania, 6-3, 6-4.
Grigoriy Yegorov (1, United States), def. Camille Pinel (3, Argentina), def. Jennifer Hopkins, United States, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Advanta Champions

Monday
At The Pavilion
Villanova
Surface: Hardwood
Singles
First round

Rosana Nencheva (1, Bulgaria), def. Melien Tu, United States, 6-4, 6-4.
United States, 6-2, 6-1.
Teyn Ashley, def. Teyn Ashley, 6-2, 6-1.
Nicola Vladovic, Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-5.
Veronika Zvonareva (4, Russia), def. Sybille Bammer, Austria, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Pro soccer

MLS playoffs
New England Revolution vs. D.C. United
New York Red Bulls vs. Chicago Fire
Kansas City vs. Los Angeles
Los Angeles at Kansas City
Sunday, Nov. 14
At Carson, Calif.

College hockey

NCAA Division I poll
MINNEAPOLIS—Top teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 31, points, and previous ranking:

1. Boston College (5) 3-1-0 583 2
2. Minnesota-Duluth (3) 2-1-2 474 3
3. Wisconsin 2-1-2 462 4
4. Wisconsin 2-1-2 448 5
5. Colorado College (1) 2-0-0 437 6
6. New Hampshire 2-0-0 437 7
7. Maine 2-0-0 437 8
8. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 9
9. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 10
10. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 11
11. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 12
12. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 13
13. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 14
14. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 15
15. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 16
16. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 17
17. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 18
18. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 19
19. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 20
20. North Carolina 2-0-0 437 21

Deals

Monday's transactions
BASEBALL
American League
Boston Red Sox—Decided to exercise the 2005 contract option on RHP Curtis Lesage.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Named Tim Lincecum first baseman and backup.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Reinstated RHP Ryan Larkin, def. of Ryan Larkin, 6-3, 6-4.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Agreed to terms with RHP Kevin Eitzinger on a one-year, \$1.5 million contract.
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Declined to exercise the 2005 contract option on LHP Eddie Perez.
TEXAS RANGERS—Named Greg Maddux manager of Spokane of the Northwest League.
CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with RHP Rickey Henderson, def. of Jim Thome on minor league contracts.

HOUSTON ASTROS—Announced the resignation of Gerry Hunsicker, general manager, who will remain with the team as an advisor through next season. Promoted Tim Lincecum from assistant general manager to general manager of player development to general manager.

NEW YORK METS—Declined to exercise the 2005 contract option on RHP Raul Lopez, def. of Raul Lopez, 6-3, 6-4.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA THUNDER—Agreed to terms with RHP Raul Lopez, def. of Raul Lopez, 6-3, 6-4.

DENVER NUGGETS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

DALLAS MAVERICKS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

DETROIT PISTONS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

INDIANAPOLIS PACERS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

LOS ANGELES ANGELES—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

MINNEAPOLIS TWINS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

NEW YORK METS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

ST. LOUIS BRUINS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

TEXAS RANGERS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

WYOMING COWBOYS—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

YANKEES—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

ZEEBIE—Placed J. Justin Reid and Chris Chivers at Fred A. Smith Center in Chicago.

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His problem with Agassi from Masters Cup

The Associated Press

PARIS — Andre Agassi and David Nalbandian both pulled out of the Paris Masters, meaning neither will play in the season-ending Masters Cup.

Agassi, 34, cited a problem with his right hip. Argentina's Nalbandian did not give a reason, although he had said Sunday that a knee he injured at the Swiss Indoors in Basel would likely rule him out.

The Masters Cup begins in Houston on Nov. 15 with only eight players selected from the ongoing ATP race. Agassi was in eighth spot in the race, and Nalbandian was in ninth.

Wallace lined for posttrace actions at Martinsville

DATON, BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR fined Nextel Cup driver Rusty Wallace \$10,000 Tuesday for intentionally lapping Ryan Newman's car as the field returned to pit lane after the Oct. 24 race at Martinsville Speedway.

Wallace's angry words to Newman's Racing Sport team after a run-in late in the race and bumped Newman's Dodge to shove his way into the lead.

Newman bumped Wallace while taking second place from him on a restart with seven laps to go in the 200-mile race.

Newman finished third, behind Johnson and Jamie McMurray, while Wallace wound up 10th.

Report: Lehman to be next Ryder Cup captain

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Tom Lehman, unbeaten in singles in his three Ryder Cups, will be named U.S. captain for the 2006 Ryder Cup in Ireland. The Palm Beach Post reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said Lehman would be introduced Wednesday at Amelia Island, where the PGA of America is holding its 86th annual meeting.

Lehman did not immediately return a phone call from The Associated Press seeking comment. The newspaper did not cite a source in its report.

PGA of America spokesman Julius Mason confirmed that a news conference would be held Wednesday to announce the next captain.

China aims for record drug testing in 2008

BEIJING — China plans to carry out a record 4,500 doping tests during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, an increase of 1,000 from the Athens Games.

The doping plans were announced Tuesday at a drug testing laboratory in Beijing.

A record 24 doping cases were reported during the Athens Games. Seven medals, including three golds, were revoked.

Plus they handle complex probability theory in their heads!

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Tabuse first Japanese player to make NBA roster

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A 5-foot, 9-inch point guard who mixes off-court familiarity with an oncourt flair for no-look, fastbreak passes is the first Japanese-born player to make an NBA roster.

Yuta Tabuse was told Monday that he would be one of 12 players suiting up for the Phoenix Suns in their season opener Wednesday night at home against the Atlanta Hawks.

"Hopefully the Japanese people are excited about my position right now," Tabuse said after the Suns' practice.

The 24-year-old Tabuse was enveloped by about two dozen members of the Japanese media when the news broke. But it's an intrusion the polite playmaker accepts without complaint.

"It's good for me," he said, "and good for the Japanese people."

Tabuse made the team as the third point guard — behind Steve Nash and Leandro Barbosa — after Howard Eisley was waived over the weekend.

"It's a big day for him," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "The



Japan's Yuta Tabuse (1) made the Phoenix Suns' roster as the third point guard — behind Steve Nash and Leandro Barbosa — after Howard Eisley was waived over the weekend.

guy's working his rear off, and he deserves it. I'm happy for him."

But D'Antoni said the decision was not a public relations move or a conscious effort to spread the internationalized NBA to yet another country.

"It's a nice story," D'Antoni he said of Tabuse's tale of success, "but for me as a coach, it really doesn't help me win or lose. I'm

glad it happened for him. I like the kid, and everybody else does too, but we're trying to win basketball games."

Tabuse played two seasons for BYU-Hawaii, an NCAA Division II school. Last year he took part in the Denver Nuggets' training camp, but was cut before the start of the regular season. He played for the Suns in the Vegas and

Rocky Mountain Review summer leagues.

"A true point guard is hard to find," Nash said. "He had a really good summer from all accounts, and he worked hard this preseason to really find a spot on this team."

In Japan, this is a monumental story, said Yasushi Kikuchi, who covers U.S. sports for the newspaper Hoshi Shimbun.

"He's going to be as big as when Ichiro came here," Kikuchi said. "He was a legend when he played for his high school team, because they never lost. He's the most famous basketball player in Japan."

Tabuse thought the Ichiro comparison went a bit too far. "I'd say Ichiro is bigger than me," Tabuse said. "He's the most famous athlete in Japan. But I'm glad to be like Ichiro and (Hideo) Nomo for basketball in Japan."

The Suns have marveled at how well the soft-spoken Tabuse has handled the constant attention of the Japanese media.

"He's got a tremendous responsibility to his country to be a pioneer," Nash said. "It's tremendous, I think for everybody, to have that Japanese influence in our league."

Tabuse said his favorite player was Magic Johnson, and that's where those no-look passes came from. Quickness and skill must overcome Tabuse's severe lack of height in the towering world of the NBA.

"He's got to use that to his advantage," Nash said. "His quickness in the open court, where he can negate his shorts, is very important for him, and he's very good at it. He's got to develop that and continue to use that to exploit his opponent."

Tabuse will see little playing time, but that hardly matters now. His parents flew from Japan on Monday to be on hand for Wednesday's opener, when he will wear his name and the cheers when the roster is announced. He said he will try to savor the moment.

"Everyone is big and fast in the NBA," Tabuse said. "But I believe the most important thing is my heart, and what I'm thinking. It's fun to play against NBA players."

He said he would spend only a little time celebrating his milestone.

"I feel good now," he said. "But I need to play hard tomorrow. I need to play hard every day."

Sprewell to ask for trade if he doesn't get extension

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Latrell Sprewell says he'll ask to be traded if the Minnesota Timberwolves don't sign him to a contract extension by Wednesday night's opener.

"I think this thing is heading towards me leaving, personally," Sprewell told reporters on Sunday. But on Monday, he said that if no resolution is reached, he'll still play.

"The talks aren't really going good," he said Monday. "[I] don't look like it's going to happen. That doesn't mean I'm not going to play. I'll play."

Earlier this preseason, Sprewell said he wanted a contract extension by the Wolves' Nov. 3 opener against the New York Knicks, or he would ask for a sign-and-trade deal or wait to become a free agent. Either way, Sprewell said he didn't want to negotiate during the season.

Neither Sprewell's agent, Robert Gist, nor Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor immediately returned phone messages on Monday. The Associated Press on Monday said Sprewell, Sam Cassell and league MVP Kevin Garnett formed the NBA's highest scoring trio last year in leading the Wolves to the Western Conference finals. Sprewell averaged 16.8 points last season and is due to make \$14.6 million this year.

Sprewell has said he doesn't want to take a pay cut to \$13.34, the Wolves could be hesitant to oblige. Sprewell described the team's latest offer as "insulting."

Spurs sign guard Parker to contract extension

SAN ANTONIO — Point guard Tony Parker agreed to a



Minnesota Timberwolves' Latrell Sprewell, part of the NBA's highest-scoring trio last season, is unwilling to take a pay cut.

long-term contract extension with the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

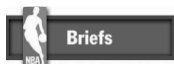
Terms of the deal were not released. San Antonio scheduled a news conference for Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Frenchman averaged 14.6 points and 5.5 assists last season.

Parker, a three-year veteran, has averaged 13.1 points and 5.0 assists in 234 career games and helped lead the Spurs to the NBA championships in 2002-03.

Blazers forward Randolph agrees to extension

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland forward Zach Randolph agreed to



a six-year, \$84 million contract extension with the Trail Blazers on Monday.

Randolph originally was seeking a six-year, \$86 million extension, the maximum allowed under the league's collective bargaining agreement. He can make an additional \$2 million if he is named to the All-Star team each year over the duration of the contract, putting him at \$86 million, according to his agent, Raymond Brothert.

"I feel like I'm one of the best players in my class, and I feel like I deserved it," Randolph said.

Randolph averaged 20.1 points and 10.5 rebounds last season and was voted the NBA's most improved player.

The 6-foot-9 forward had 43 double-doubles last season, tying for fifth in the league. He scored 20 or more points in 42 games as Portland finished 41-41, good for 10th in the Western Conference, two spots out of the playoffs.

"We know him well as a player, we know him as a person," general manager John Nash said. "We're committed to him and he's committed to us, in terms of being a leader, as well as a very, very productive player."

Divac one of three Lakers placed on injured list

LOS ANGELES — The Lakers placed center Vladi Divac and forwards DeShaun Thomas and Slava Medvedenko on the injured list and waived guard Tony Bobbitt on Monday.

Divac has a herniated disc in

his lower back; George is recovering from offseason surgery on his left ankle, and Medvedenko has a sore right heel. All will miss a minimum of five games.

76ers will try to trade injured forward Robinson

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers placed 11-year veteran Glenn Robinson on the injured list Monday with left ankle tendinitis and will try to trade the former No. 1 pick.

Sixers General Manager Billy King indicated that he and new coach Jim O'Brien had reached the conclusion that trading the 31-year-old forward would be the best thing for all parties.

"With the direction we want to go and the way Jim wants to play, it may not benefit Glenn," King said. "I don't think Glenn's lost any of his skill level. It's just the way we're going as an organization."

O'Brien said Robinson, who averaged 16.6 points per game last season, down from his career average of 20.8 — needs a change of scenery for the third time in his career.

"He needs to start at a team and put up numbers," O'Brien said. "I think he could fit. He's just not fitting in our starting lineup."

Bobcats place 3 on injured list

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats placed forwards Jamal Sampson and Thercery DeClercq and guard Keith Bogans on the injured list Monday.

Bogans, acquired Monday in a trade with the Orlando Magic, was placed on the injured list because he has not yet had a physical. Sampson has a right ankle injury, and Smith has been battling swelling in his right knee.

Knicks guard Houston to start season on injured list

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks placed guards Allan Houston and Jamison Brewer and center Bruno Sundov on the injured list Monday.

Houston will start the season on the injured list because of chronic pain in his left knee. Brewer has a sprained right big toe and Sundov right Achilles' tendinitis.

Bucks' Ford, Hamilton go on injured list

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks placed guard T.J. Ford and forward Zond Hamilton on the injured list Monday night.

Ford is continuing his recovery from spinal cord surgery, and Hamilton is recuperating from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Ford was sidelined for the last two months of last season and had surgery in May. He was leading all rookies in assists and ranked ninth in the NBA before he was hurt Feb. 24 when he landed on his tailbone against Minnesota.

Magic place three on injured list

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic placed centers Andrew DeClercq and Mario Kasun, and forward Brandon Hunter on the injured list Monday.

The move was expected for DeClercq, who had right knee surgery in July and didn't play in the preseason.

Hunter, acquired Monday from the Charlotte Bobcats for Keith Bogans, is out with tendinitis in his right Achilles' tendon. Kasun will miss time with tendinitis in his left knee.

Magic looking for Francis to lead offense

Orlando hopes intangibles will help team

BY TIM PONTAK

The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Steve Francis doesn't always lead everyone down the right path.

But he always leads.

That's why he is here.

"He's a natural leader. It's second nature to him," said Orlando Magic coach Johnny Davis.

The seven-player trade in June that sent guard Tracy McGrady to the Houston Rockets was made primarily to lead Francis and the intangibles he brings. McGrady is the most talented player, but Francis is the more forceful leader. McGrady led the league in scoring last season but did it so quietly that Orlando limped to a league-worst 21 victories. He shined as a scorer but did not improve those around him.

"Steve is very upbeat. Teammates like him. You could see that right away here," Davis said. "He was the heartbeat of that Houston team last season, and he'll do the same thing here. You won't have a successful team without good internal leadership. That's what he brings."

Since becoming the second pick in the 1999 NBA Draft, Francis has been dictating the tempo of his team and his career. After his name was announced as the pick of the Vancouver Grizzlies, he decided quickly he would not play there. It was an unpopular move for a rookie, but he held firm until he was traded to Houston.

Francis thought he was joining a playoff-quality veteran team, but the Rockets were disintegrating before his first training camp.

Scottie Pippen was traded Oct. 2. Charles Barkley played 20 games, then retired. Hakeem Olajuwon was a shell of his former self and not interested in helping anyone. Francis became Houston's leader right away, starting all 77 games he played and averaging 18 points and 6.6 assists.

"I grew up in this league really without a veteran to lean on, to show me the way," Francis said. "I learned by doing, by making mistakes sometimes. But I learned on my own."

Through his first five seasons, he has been turnover prone, sometimes a little difficult to coach but always putting his head down and playing hard. He upset Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy last season when he missed a team plane because he was partying with friends before the Super Bowl. Yet he made Van Gundy proud when he came to the defense of teammate Yao Ming when Phoenix Suns power forward Amaré Stoudemire tried to embarrass him.

Francis chafed under Van Gundy's slowdown offense last season but played hard and became a Western Conference All-Star starter for the third year in a row.

"I'm going to be one of the leaders here, but I'm not a verbal kind of leader," Francis said. "I'm going to be diving on the floor for loose balls, hustling in practice,

setting an example. That's how I lead. I'm not the type of leader who is going to get in people's faces."

Francis didn't waste any time setting the example in Orlando. On the second day of training camp, he smashed a finger blocking a pass. He yelled in obvious pain but waved off the trainer and kept playing.

He insisted on playing more than established All-Star usually do in the first preseason game with 19 points, seven assists and seven rebounds in 36 minutes, knowing there was another game the next day.

In Houston, Francis missed very few practices. In four of his five seasons, he has played at least 77 games.

"He's the type of leader you like playing with, but don't like playing against," said Magic forward Pat Garrity. "He's just so competitive. When he takes it to the basket, and the defense has to foul him, he's going to try to hurt you. You are going to feel him hit you when you foul him."

He has been offering advice to rookies Dwight Howard and Jameel Nelson, hoping his competitiveness rubs off.

"You don't have to be the biggest guy in the world to play this game the way it should be played. You just have to have guys who are tough," Francis said. "And I think we got that here. There are times in games when there is a loose ball, and you've got to get it. Toughness is a matter of who is



Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis (3) averaged 16.6 points and 6.2 assists in 79 games for the Houston Rockets last season.

going to get that loose ball."

In the trade, Francis came along with starters Curtin Mobley and Kelvin Cato, who will help acclimate everyone else to his style. Along with McGrady, the Magic gave up starters Juwan Howard and Tyronn Lue and reserve Beebe Gaines.

The Magic hope to double their victory total, transforming from a

slowdown team to a winning team with Francis in the lead. The Rockets hope McGrady can join with Yao in a deliberate offense and make them title contenders in the tough West.

"Maybe it will help both teams," Francis said. "I'd rather win than anything else, and I plan on helping make this team a winner. From what I've seen, there's no reason why we shouldn't win."

NBA champion Pistons still look like beasts in East

BY MICHAEL ROSENBERG

Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Things that could keep the Pistons from making the NBA Finals:

1. The Heat and Pacers merge into the Haters.

2. Rasheed Wallace gets arrested for kidnapping Richard Hamilton.

3. Um ... nope. That's it.

OK, somebody could get hurt. Indiana or Miami could make a ridiculously lopsided trade, like the Pistons did when they picked up Wallace for Chuckie Atkins and a stack of Kroger coupons. But as it stands now, the Pistons should win the East.

Will they win another championship?

Only a fool would predict a hypothetical season seven months before it happens, and that's where I come in. Yes, I think they'll win again. But I'm a lot more confident in saying they'll come out of the East.

Look around the conference. I suppose it's possible in Indiana to beat the Pistons, but it's hard to see, since the Pacers are 39, and there's a pretty good chance that at some point Ron Artest will run into the stands during

Commentary

a game, reach into his shorts and pull out a baby alligator. So I'm going with the Pistons.

Miami added a slimmer-danned Shaquille O'Neal to electrifying Dwyane Wade. But to do it, the Heat had to give away the rest of the team.

Now starting for the Heat: Shaq, Wade and three guys from Jack's Super Lube. That won't get it done.

Physicists have a word for the rest of the East, and that word is "craposity."

New Jersey has a new owner, Bruce Ratner. He wants to move the team to Brooklyn as soon as he gets rid of all the players. Kenyon Martin was traded. Kerry Kittles was traded. Jason Kidd is so unhappy, he can't even find the energy to get his coach fired.

Other than that, you have the Cleveland LeBron, the Philly Iversons, the New York Overpaid Knicks and the Milwaukee Nice Guys. Without a Real MVP, they might all get playoff berths, which is a far different thing from earning playoff berths.



Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace (3) is a strong defensive presence in what is likely the most balanced lineup in the Eastern Conference.

What can go wrong for the Pistons? Antonio McDyess could get injured for the 14th consecutive year. But he looks great so far, and he wisely chose a team where he can limit his minutes. And even if McDyess gets hurt again, the Pistons have enough big bodies to survive.

There is, as always, the Rasheed concern. You know: His head might sprout knuckles again and kill the season. But ask yourself this: If Rasheed commits any

of his previous infractions again, how much would it really hurt?

If he's arrested for pot possession again, the team would survive.

If he screams at a reporter, the team would survive (although the public would be outraged, because we know how popular reporters are).

Admittedly, if he chases an official down a loading dock and threatens to kill him again, it would slow down momentum and put a real scare into the UPS guy.

But let's figure he has that loading-dock threat jones out of his system.

The only other plausible argument against the Pistons is that they will celebrate their championship by replacing their bench with lawn chairs and sipping fruity cocktails all season. Well, they could do that and still beat most of the teams in the East. And I don't see Ben Wallace going for that anyway.

They are coming out of the East. A couple of years ago — OK, last year — people would have read that and said, "Great. So who sweeps them in the Finals?"

The Pistons changed that when they met the Lakers' mystique with a gas can and a load of matches. The West winner won't seem invincible next June.

San Antonio is the leading candidate. The Spurs have Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili, and, in a nice departure from the Lakers, none of them want to drown each other. Minnesota looks dangerous.

Denver is a team of the future. And Houston probably has the next big man/wing super combo in Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady.

The pick here is the Pistons over the Spurs in the NBA Finals. Enjoy the season, Detroit. Now your team gets to be the bully.

New D-backs manager known for intense style

BY BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Eight years as a successful minor league manager showed that Wally Backman works well with young players. How he does with seasoned major leaguers will be known soon enough.

Backman was hired Monday as manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks, bringing a reputation for toughness and intensity that dates to his days as a scrappy second baseman for the New York Mets, a team he helped win the World Series in 1986.

Managing partner Ken Kendrick said that the issue of working with older players came up in Backman's job interview.

"He has a commanding presence about him, and a sensitivity about the difference between a veteran and a younger player," Kendrick said.

Still, Backman said there will be no attempt to mellow his managing style.

"I am who I am," he said, "last year, the year before and I'll be the same person next year." That person is one with a history of a hot temper and more than a few run-ins with umpires. He was



Backman

once suspended briefly for bumping an umpire, and ejections were not uncommon. "I protect my player," Backman said. "As a manager when there's any kind of confrontation, if it's a player and an umpire, I feel like my player has to stay on the field — because he wouldn't be out there if I didn't want him out there. So I'll do everything that I possibly can to keep my player in the game."

He believes players like to play for him, and foresees no problem working with veterans such as Randy Johnson and Luis Gonzalez.

"I've always thought that I was a players' manager," Backman said. "My attitude is aggressive and hard-nosed and I expect my players to give 100 percent at all times, and I never have any problems."

The 45-year-old Backman takes over a team coming off one of the worst seasons in baseball history. Arizona's 111 losses rank eighth-worst since the game began.

Ten Red Sox now free agents; Mets buy out Hidalgo for \$2M

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Right-hander Drew Lowe and catcher Jason Varitek led a parade of 10 Red Sox who filed for free agency Monday, two days after they were honored in Boston following the team's first World Series title since 1918.

Shortstop Orlando Cabrera and backup catcher Doug Mirebello also filed along with right-handers Curtis Leskanen, Ramiro Mendoza and Scott Williamson; left-hander Mike Myers; first baseman Dave McCarty and second baseman Pokey Reese.

Leskanen filed after Boston declined a \$1.25 million option, electing to pay a \$100,000 buyout.

Thirteen Red Sox have filed for free agency since Boston won the World Series last Wednesday, and three more are eligible, including pitcher Pedro Martinez.

Three players from the NL champion St. Louis Cardinals filed: second baseman Tony Womack, right-hander Matt Morris and left-hander Steve Kline.

The New York Mets declined a \$15 million option on Richard Hidalgo and opted to pay the outfielder a \$2 million buyout.

Hidalgo then filed for free agency along with right-hander Kris Benson and Ricky Bottalico, left-hander John Franco and first baseman Todd Zeile, who plans to retire.

We are open-minded to speaking to Richard about coming back next year," Mets General Manager Omar Minaya said.

Hidalgo, acquired from Houston on June 17, hit .228 (74-for-324) with 21 homers and 52 RBIs in 86 games with New York. New York has spoken with the agent for Benson, obtained from Pittsburgh in late July. The Mets have said they would like to re-sign him.

Franco, the 44-year-old team captain, probably won't be asked back.

Tampa Bay declined an \$8 million option on Tino Martinez and will pay him a \$1 million buyout. The Devil Rays, his hometown team, remain interested in

re-signing the 36-year-old first baseman.

The Devil Rays obtained Martinez from the Cardinals in a trade last winter and he hit .263 with 23 homers and 78 RBIs in 138 games this year.

Seattle declined to exercise a \$6 million option on closer Eddie Guardado, giving the injured left-hander until Nov. 10 to decide if he wants to exercise a \$4 million player option or become a free agent. Guardado, 34, was limited to 41 appearances last season because of injuries.

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Bowden hired by MLB to run Expos

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Cincinnati Reds general manager Jim Bowden was hired Tuesday as general manager of the Washington-bound Montreal Expos.

"I am honored and excited to lead the Expos' baseball operations during this very important

Briefs

transition period," Bowden said. "I look forward to helping the organization build an eventual championship caliber team."

Bowden will oversee offseason trades and signings for a team that will move to the nation's capital next season if the local government approves funding for a new ballpark. He replaces Omar Minaya, who resigned during the final week of the regular season to become general manager of the New York Mets.

Bowden might not have the job for more than a few months. The Washington team, owned by the 29 other major league clubs, is for sale and at least two dozen potential buyers have shown interest.

Although Nov. 1 had been set as a deadline for expressing interest, baseball officials say they will continue to accept feelers from potential owners for another week or two.

Once the sale is completed, which isn't expected until late in the offseason or early during the regular season, the new owners might hire their own front-office personnel.

Bowden was the youngest general manager in major league history when he took the position with the Reds in 1992 at age 31. The Reds made the playoffs only once during his 10½ seasons in Cincinnati, when they advanced to the NL championship series in 1995.

Randolph, Jaramillo, Collins at top of Mets' list

NEW YORK — Yankees coach Willie Randolph, Texas coach Rudy Jaramillo and former major

league manager Terry Collins were invited back Monday for a second round of interviews by the New York Mets, who hope to hire a new manager this week.

They were asked to meet with Mets' executives on Wednesday at Shea Stadium. Carlos Tosca and general manager Sandy Alderson were two candidates who interviewed with new general manager Omar Minaya, were not invited back.

New York did not call the three candidates finalists, meaning it is possible others could join the field.

Leyland wants Phillies job

PHILADELPHIA — Jim Leyland has spent the last five years turning down job offers and insisting he'll never manage again in the major leagues. He's ready to return to the dugout.

Leyland, who led Florida to its first World Series championship in 1997 and guided Pittsburgh to three division titles in the early '90s, interviewed for the Philadelphia Phillies managerial position on Monday, and also plans to talk to the New York Mets.

"This is a great situation, a good baseball, a very good location in a beautiful, new setting," Leyland said, adding Philadelphia is a "great location" because of its proximity to his home in Pittsburgh.

Leyland was the eighth and final candidate interviewed for Philadelphia's managerial job since Larry Bowa was fired two days before the Phillies finished a disappointing season in second place behind Atlanta.

Former managers Don Baylor, Charlie Manuel, Grady Little, Buddy Bell and Jim Fregosi, Pirates third-base coach John Russell and Braves hitting coach Terry Pendleton also interviewed.

Yankees 3B Rodriguez still top SS

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alex Rodriguez was the best shortstop in the American League for the sixth straight season, according to baseball's annual rankings.

That's right, shortstop. Even though he moved to third base following his February trade from Texas to the New York Yankees, Rodriguez was counted as a shortstop because he played more games at that position over a two-year period (160) than he did at third base (155).

Rodriguez's appearances at shortstop this year were limited to two innings — July 1 against Boston and Aug. 23 at Cleveland — after Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter got hurt.

The rules for the rankings, compiled by the Elias Sports Bureau, were established by players and owners at their settlement of the 1981 strike.

Rodriguez had an 87.03 ranking on a scale of 100, followed by Baltimore's Miguel Tejada (85.74) and Jeter (83.76).

Rodriguez had been listed as a third baseman, he would have been second to Oakland's Eric Chavez (92.85).

Toronto first baseman Carlos Delgado was the top player in the major leagues at 98.83, followed by Boston outfielder Manny Ramirez (97), Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield (96.75) and St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols (96.67).

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	E	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	1	0	0	.857	168	124
N.Y. Jets	6	1	0	0	.857	168	116
Buffalo	2	5	0	0	.286	115	120
Milwaukee	2	5	0	0	.286	100	162
South							
Jacksonville	3	0	0	0	.100	129	146
Houston	4	0	0	0	.571	158	143
Indianapolis	4	0	0	0	.571	128	178
Tennessee	5	0	0	0	.375	151	178
North							
Pittsburgh	6	0	0	0	.857	170	134
Baltimore	4	0	0	0	.571	127	100
Cleveland	3	0	0	0	.429	147	147
Cincinnati	2	5	0	0	.286	126	166
West							
Denver	3	0	0	0	.625	168	141
San Diego	5	0	0	0	.625	219	156
Kansas City	3	0	0	0	.429	126	147
Oakland	2	6	0	0	.250	138	123

National Conference

	E	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	0	0	0	1.000	186	104
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	0	.714	151	113
Dallas	3	4	0	0	.429	138	177
Washington	2	5	0	0	.286	98	123
South							
Atlanta	6	2	0	0	.750	170	107
New Orleans	4	0	0	0	.429	154	181
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	0	.333	109	124
Carolina	1	6	0	0	.143	100	158
North							
Minnesota	5	2	0	0	.714	163	162
Kansas City	5	2	0	0	.571	171	154
Green Bay	4	4	0	0	.500	206	186
Chicago	5	0	0	0	.286	108	121
West							
St. Louis	4	0	0	0	.571	168	165
Seattle	4	0	0	0	.571	152	118
Arizona	2	5	0	0	.286	126	142
San Francisco	2	6	0	0	.143	118	182

Sunday's games

Dallas 11, Detroit 21	
Buffalo 38, Arizona 14	
Tennessee 27, Cincinnati 20	
Green Bay 28, Washington 14	
Houston 20, Jacksonville 6	
Kansas City 45, Indianapolis 35	
Philadelphia 15, Baltimore 10	
N.Y. Giants 34, Minnesota 13	
Seattle 23, Carolina 17	
Atlanta 41, Denver 28	
San Diego 42, Oakland 14	
Pittsburgh 34, New England 20	
Cincinnati 23, San Francisco 10	
Opp: Tampa Bay, St. Louis, New Orleans, Cincinnati	

Monday's game

N.Y. Jets 41, Miami 13	
Sunday, Nov. 7	
Washington at Detroit	
Arizona at Miami	
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	
Philadelphia at Cincinnati	
Oakland at Carolina	
Kickoff: 1:00 p.m.	
Kansas City at Pittsburgh	
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants	
Seattle at San Francisco	
New Orleans at San Diego	
Houston at Denver	
New England at St. Louis	
Cleveland at Baltimore	
Opp: Green Bay, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Tennessee	

Monday, Nov. 8

Minnesota at Indianapolis	
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Monday

Jets 41, Dolphins 14

Miami	W	L	T	Pct
N.Y. Jets	7	1	0	14-0-1

First Quarter

NY-Chreib 25 pass from Pennington (Bricknell kick), 7:26	
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Second Quarter

Mia-McMichael 21 pass from Fiedler (McMichael kick), 6:25	
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Third Quarter

NY-CMartin 20 run (Bricknell kick), 10:29	
NY-Baker 1 run pass from Pennington (Bricknell kick), 12:10	

Fourth Quarter

NY-FG Jordan 42, 12:26	
NY-FG Jordan 25 run (Bricknell kick), 11:14	

Mia-Thompson 29 pass from Fiedler (McBrynn kick), 10:06	
A-78:21	

First downs	16	22
Yards	259	47
Rushes-yards	16-78	41-275
Passes-yards	11-181	17-257
Punt returns	2-9	4-41
Kickoff returns	1-18	2-32
Interceptions	0-0	2-0
Compl.-Int.	20-41	12-26-0
Penalties-yards	4-27	4-40
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	5-13
Time of possession	32:41	29:41

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Miami: Morris 11, 6-35; Minnor 4-6; N.Y. Jets: Jamison 14-115, Martin 19-115, Askew 6-23, Pennington 2-22.	
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Passing: Miami: Fiedler 17-215, N.Y. Jets: Pennington 11-159-9-18, Q-Carter 1-4-0.	
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Receiving: Miami: McMichael 7-87, Booker 2-20, Chambers 3-20, Morris 3-12, Thompson 1-29, Konrad 1-15, Lee 1-6, Gilmore 1-3.	
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Defensive: Miami: Fiedler 4-2-218, N.Y. Jets: Pennington 11-159-9-18, Q-Carter 1-4-0.	
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Missed field goals: None.	
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Jets use run way to rout Dolphins

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Jets gave the Miami Dolphins a little of Curtis Martin, and a little of LaMont Jordan.

They made a perfect combination. The running back duo helped the Jets embarrass the hapless Dolphins, sending their defense to a new low in a 41-14 rout Monday night. Martin and Jordan each ran for 115 yards and a score, and the 275 yards the Jets racked up on the ground are the most in the NFL this season.

"We always talk about being a 1-2 punch," Martin said. "And you could see that from us tonight."

The last time the teams met on Monday night, the Jets erased a 23-point, fourth-quarter deficit for a 40-37 overtime win in 2000 in what is known as the "Monday Night Miracle."

There was no chance of a comeback this time around. The Jets (6-1) scored 34 straight points, stifling the ineffective Dolphins (1-7) on offense and humiliating the proud Miami defense, which entered the game ranked fourth in the NFL.

Chad Pennington threw three touchdown passes and went 11-for-19 for 189 yards before being lifted for Quincy Carter in the fourth quarter. The Jets finished with 472 yards of total offense.

"They gave us an old-fashioned beating," Dolphins linebacker Junior Seau said. "I tip my hat to them, for not only what they did against us but the whole year."

New York entered the game



Jets running back LaMont Jordan runs for a 25-yard touchdown during the fourth quarter against the Dolphins. Jordan rushed for 115 yards — the same as starter Curtis Martin — as the Jets rushed for 275 yards.

after its first loss of the season, 13-7 to New England last week-end, but turned in its most complete performance of the year.

Jets coach Herman Edwards knew it was important to keep pace with the Patriots and Steelers, both 6-1 in the AFC.

Moss might miss first game of career

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota's Randy Moss might miss his first career game because of a lingering right hamstring strain that hasn't gotten worse — but isn't getting a whole lot better.

The Vikings will decide later this week whether or not they should rest their first-round receiver on Monday night at Indianapolis.

Since being hurt before halftime of Minnesota's game at New Orleans on Oct. 17, Moss has been limited to just 11 snaps over the last 10 games. Though he leads the team with eight touchdown catches and his consecutive game streak remains alive at 103, he's gone the last two games without a reception.

"Can we get him back at full speed sooner if he just going to miss his first game? Or is he going to be back at full speed the same length of time if we just play him in a limited role — based on the fact that in two weeks he didn't take a step back? So have to monitor that, as the week goes on. We have to do what's best for the team to achieve our goals, which is to win the division and win the world championship. We can't do what's best for a streak, or anything of that nature."

Asked on Sunday night if he was feeling better, the 20-year-old star will begin the week listed as questionable on the injury report.

Lynch out with broken tailbone

DENVER — John Lynch will be out for two-to-four weeks after being diagnosed with a fractured tailbone.

NFL briefs

Lynch walked toward the Atlanta huddle and started yelling at the Falcons.

He wasn't available after the game, but several Broncos said Lynch felt Finnern's fall was a cheap shot.

Denver coach Mike Shanahan said the block appeared legal, "but it was one of those blindside shots that kind of catches you off guard."

Nick Ferguson will start in place of Lynch in next Sunday's game against Houston.

Lions sacks leader Porcher retires

DETROIT — Robert Porcher retired Monday, ending a 13-year career as Detroit's career leader in sacks.

"I've thought about this day for a lot of the last three years," Porcher said. "All we think we can play forever, and I was no different, but now the time has come to step aside."

Porcher, who has 95½ sacks, already had announced this would be his last season, but he ended his career early after being inactive for Detroit's first seven games.

"These last seven weeks have been tough," he said. "I had always been proud of being part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Panthers kick Morgan for concussion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers are evaluating linebacker Dan Morgan

"If you can keep this bottled up, we have a chance to be a pretty good football team," Edwards said.

The last time the Jets had two 100-yard rushers in a game was Sept. 28, 1975, when John Riggins ran for 145 yards and Carl Garrett had 135 in a 30-24 win over Kansas City. Miami last allowed two 100-yard rushers on Oct. 29, 1989, at Buffalo, when Thurman Thomas had 148 yards and Larry Kinnebrew added 121.

Martin, 31, has had a renaissance in his 10th NFL season. He came into the game second in the league in rushing, while carrying the Jets burden on the ground.

That all changed against the Dolphins. Edwards made it a point to use both backs and wear down the Dolphins defense in the second half. Martin finished with 19 carries and Jordan 14.

"It feels good any time you have a 100-yard rusher and we had two," Jets left tackle Kareem McKenzie said. "How often does that happen?"

The Jets defense harassed Jay Fiedler the entire game, sacking the Dolphins quarterback four times and picking him off twice.

Miami got a meaningless score as the game ended, when Fiedler threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Derritus Thompson. Fiedler finished 20-for-41 for 218 yards.

Sammy Morris had 11 carries for 48 yards.

"When you don't run the football and you don't stop the run, you don't win," Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt said. "No one understands that more than I do because that's how we've won around here."

to see if he suffered a concussion against the Seahawks.

Morgan was plagued by postconcussion syndrome last year, missing five games and parts of four others. Once completely healed, Morgan acknowledged he suffered dizziness and fatigue while trying to play.

So the Panthers are taking it slow this time with Morgan, who left Sunday's loss in the first half.

Cochin John Fox said it's possible Morgan might not play this week against Oakland.

"You always err on the side of caution when you are dealing with a concussion," Fox said.

Arrington out even longer

ASHBURN, Va. — Redskins Pro Bowl linebacker LaVar Arrington could miss another month because of his knee injury.

Arrington has missed the last five games since having knee surgery Sept. 23. He aggravated the injury in a running drill last week, and a subsequent examination revealed a bone bruise that was there all along.

Seahawks receivers hampered

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Seattle's receiving corps is in disarray after Darrell Jackson, Jerry Rice and Alex Bannister were injured in a victory over the Cardinals.

Jackson, the team's leading receiver, finished the game Sunday but Rice and Bannister couldn't. Jackson hurt an ankle injury, Rice sprained his right ankle, and Bannister — a Pro Bowl special teams player last season — broke his right collarbone and will miss eight weeks.

Questions are only half answered in NFL

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

In Week 1, the Philadelphia Eagles toyed with the New York Giants, beating them 31-17 in a game that wasn't that close.

About half a season later, those same bedraggled Giants might be the second-best team in the NFC. At least they're among them, one of only three two-loss teams in the conference behind unbeaten Philadelphia, all seemingly light years behind in ability.

No, don't put the Eagles in the Super Bowl yet, although their path looks to be unimpeded as the 2004 season nears the halfway point. The same can't be said in the AFC, where there are several legitimate contenders after New England's 21-game winning streak ended decisively in Pittsburgh.

Still, after eight weeks in another unpredictable season, it's at least starting to become clear who will challenge for the playoffs and who will miss them.

AFC

That New England lost to Pittsburgh wasn't a surprise: The Patriots haven't played very well recently and a long winning streak builds its own internal pressure until things just go "Pop!" Bill Belichick's team might play better now that it doesn't have to worry about one loss, although it can't afford to lose players like Corey Dillon and Ty Law for too long.

But Pittsburgh (6-1) certainly looks like a major contender, and it's probably time to consider Ben Roethlisberger one of those rare rookie quarterbacks who can play at a consistently high level. The one thing he hasn't had to do yet is bring his team from behind — throw when the opposition knows he's going to throw.

The Patriots could even have a problem in their own division.

The Jets, who also have just one loss after routing the Miami Dolphins 41-14 on Monday night, did everything but beat New England in Foxboro, losing 13-7 but playing the Patriots even. The return game is Dec. 26, the next-to-last week of the regular season.

The most intriguing division is the South, where the third-year Texans have joined the Jaguars as challengers to the Colts. All have three losses, and the state of Indianapolis' defense, which must face Minnesota's offense next Monday night, has to be of concern to Tony Dungy, who will enjoy watching tapes of the debacle in Kansas City.

Even Tennessee (3-5) could get involved

Analysis

if Steve McNair can regain his health, making it a division that could be won at 9-7 and produce no wild-card entries.

Don't give Pittsburgh the North just yet. The Steelers' one loss is to Baltimore, and the Ravens (4-3) will get Jamal Lewis back from suspension this week. No, Kyle Boller isn't the ideal quarterback, but he played a decent fall-safe game in Philadelphia on Sunday. If the Ravens won a Super Bowl with defense, they can still win the division that way and then ... Who knows? Don't rule out Kansas City in the West despite a 1-4 start.

The Chiefs scored a total of 101 points in their past two games, both victories, and still have five of their six division games left, including two with San Diego, which is still with Denver for first place at 5-3. The Broncos have lost badly two straight weeks and no one is quite sure about the Chargers yet, although Drew Brees, with 14 touchdown passes and just three interceptions for the season, seems to be blossoming at quarterback.

Wild cards? One from the East; the other from either the North or West.

NFC

Everyone talks about the New England's



Despite a four-game losing streak, the Packers don't think a playoff spot is out of their grasp, as is this pass to Donald Driver.



Running back Priest Holmes has done his part getting the Chiefs back on track after a 1-4 start, scoring seven touchdowns in two weeks as Kansas City has scored 101 points.

streak, but the Eagles have been almost as good during the same period — 20-3 since starting the 2003 season 0-2. With Terrell Owens and Jevon Kearse added, Philadelphia is 7-0 and clearly better than anyone else in the conference and hungry for the title after getting stopped a game short of the Super Bowl the past three seasons.

Everything else is up in the air. Green Bay started 1-4 with three straight home losses, now has won three straight, and still plays Minnesota twice, giving the Packers reason to believe they can catch the Vikings in the North.

The Vikings tend to start fast and finish slowly, but they also tend to at least split with the Packers. They are 13-11 against Green Bay since Brett Favre arrived in 1992.

Detroit (4-3) also is in the mix in the North, although the Lions may be too young. One young player could be the key: Roy Williams has missed two of the past three games, and Detroit lost the two games he missed and won the one he played.

Atlanta (5-2) leads New Orleans by two games in the South and Tampa Bay by

three games. Credit Jim Mora for getting the Falcons up for a win in Denver on Sunday after losing 56-10 in Kansas City the previous week.

"We had the mind-set that we were going to stay focused and learn from the film and put it behind us," linebacker Keith Brooking said.

Seattle (4-3) and St. Louis (4-3) have the West to themselves and because they figure to beat up on Arizona and San Francisco, one of them could finish as a wild-card entry.

Figure the Giants will get the other wild card.

"They're not going to catch the Eagles in the East; Philadelphia is 14-2 at work. New York probably will wind up 11-5 or 10-6. But the Giants are the perfect reason why no one can look at a schedule and mark "W's" and "L's" on it. They were favored by a touchdown at home against Detroit and lost; they were underdogs by a touchdown at Minnesota and won.

Yes, things can change, but ...

Barring major injuries, pencil in the Eagles and ...

Who knows?

Gibbs still adamant refs blew call, Brunell is best QB

BY JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — A review of the tape and a chance to soak in the angry chants of fans didn't change Joe Gibbs' mind one bit. He still thinks his Washington Redskins got robbed of an apparent touchdown pass, and he still thinks Mark Brunell should be his quarterback.

Gibbs was still rankled over an illegal motion call on James Thrash that negated a 43-yard touchdown pass to Clinton Portis in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 28-14 loss to Green Bay. The touchdown would have given the Redskins a one-point lead with 2:25 remaining.

"I thought we made the play to win the game. Really and truly we did make the play to win the

game," Gibbs said Monday. "But it's just that up here you get very inconsistent stuff called, and that was an inconsistent call."

On the play, Thrash went in motion and turned to face his body forward an instant before the ball was snapped. Since a player can't be moving forward at the snap, the flag was thrown.

Gibbs said his team did the same maneuver three other times in the game without being flagged, and that he will be sending tapes of those plays to the league office for an explanation. He disagreed with the assertion that his offense had been getting away with the violation and had finally been caught.

"There was nothing wrong with what we did. ... We've been doing that all year, our entire life,

that's what we do. We motion across and we set and we pick up a safety blitz," Gibbs said.

Gibbs said he'll move on from the matter and start preparing for Sunday's game at Detroit.

"I will say this," he added. "You're going to play a lot of close games, and things like that make a huge difference."

Gibbs might find it harder to put aside the growing calls for him to end his loyalty to Brunell and give Patrick Ramsey a chance to revive the struggling offense. Fans were booing Brunell and chanting Ramsey's name Sunday.

"They care about it. They're emotional," Gibbs said. "I felt very comfortable with what was going on as far as Mark's play. Had I made that change in the

first half, then we would've missed these plays in the second half that really should've given us the win. He made some great plays down the stretch."

That assessment seems awfully rosy. Brunell had a few nice medium-range throws while rolling out, but he was wildly high when trying to hit open receivers over the middle. After the Portis touchdown was called back, Brunell threw an interception on the next play that essentially iced the game for the Packers.

The scoring drives against Green Bay, both set up by interceptions, were just 24 and 17 yards. Brunell didn't complete a pass longer than 23 yards. If the touchdown pass to Portis had counted, it would have been only the third completion all season of more than 40 yards for Brunell.

Brunell is now scraping the bottom of the statistical barrel, looking like a shadow of the quarterback who was such a catalyst for Jacksonville for so many years.

His 52.4 completion percentage is last in the league, and his 5.33 yards per attempt is next-to-last. His quarterback rating on third downs is 28.0, and the team converted just one of 11 third downs against the Packers.

Even while endorsing Brunell, Gibbs took an unintentional swipe at the quarterback's long-range passing ability when he said, "What's hurt us is we haven't had the ability to get in the end zone from a long ways out."

"I think now everybody right now is frustrated. Certainly I am," Gibbs said. "We've got to find a way to work our way through this."

Chargers determined to stay powered-up

San Diego has history of fading after fast starts

BY BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — After last season's nightmare, who could have imagined the San Diego Chargers with a winning record, a re-invigorated quarterback and one of the NFL's highest-scoring offenses?

Yes, the Chargers are a surprise at this season's halfway point, and they'll be an even bigger one if they can finish their respectable start by actually making it to the playoffs.

The Chargers improved to 5-3 with a 42-14 rout of the Oakland Raiders on Sunday, highlighted by quarterback Drew Brees' near-perfect performance.

San Diego certainly looks better than it did at this point a year ago, when it was 1-7 and stumbling toward an NFL-worst 4-12 finish.

But the Chargers are reacting cautiously, and with good reason.

In 2001, LaDainian Tomlinson's first season, the Chargers started 5-2 before losing their last nine games.

The next season, Marty Schottenheimer's first as coach, they were 6-1 before losing seven of their last nine.

Last season, they were simply awful from the start, losing their first five games and missing the playoffs for the eighth straight year.

Asked if Sunday's victory was the biggest since he's been here, Tomlinson took a look-see attitude.



San Diego Chargers' LaDainian Tomlinson dives over the top for a 1-yard touchdown run against the Oakland Raiders in the first quarter Sunday in San Diego. The Chargers are off to a good start for the third time in four years; this time, they hope to finish strong, too.

"I think it's still too early to tell," he said. "I'm not ready to say it was a big win yet."

The Chargers are tied for the AFC West lead with Denver. San Diego hosts New Orleans (3-4) Sunday, then has a bye.

"If we get this win we can go into the bye week 6-3," Brees said. "Then we go right back to Oakland, so we're not done with these guys and I am sure they will have something planned for us when we go up there to their place."

The Chargers have only two teams with winning records — Denver and Indianapolis — remaining on their schedule but also

must play two games against division rival Kansas City. The Chiefs have scored 101 points in their last two games. The Broncos beat them 21-13 in Denver on Sept. 26.

"I'm excited about the development of the team, but I also realize 5-3 is only a couple of games above .500, and .500 doesn't cut it in this league," Schottenheimer said.

Three years ago, some Chargers got pretty full of themselves with their fast start. Most of those players have been weeded out as Schottenheimer tried to reshape the team's character.

"It's amazing how the chemistry of the

team just came together, a bunch of different guys rolled into one, trying to get better, and always challenging each other," fullback Lorenzo Neal said Monday. "When you have so much talent, so much competition, guys are fighting to get on the field, guys are dying to make plays."

Brees was unbelievably accurate against the Raiders, completing 22 of 25 passes — a franchise-record 88 percent — for 281 yards and a career-high five touchdowns. His passer rating was 153.1. The highest rating a quarterback can have is 158.3.

Brees has thrown 14 touchdown passes and just three interceptions this season, compared to 11 TDs and 15 interceptions last year, when he was benched for five straight games and yanked from two others. San Diego is averaging 27.3 points, third-best in the league behind Indianapolis and Kansas City.

The Chargers might even get to the point where they can't sneak up on other teams anymore.

"You can operate below the radar for a little while, but then the next thing you know, when you start winning a few games, that bull's-eye goes right on the middle of your chest and it becomes more difficult," Schottenheimer said.

"I do know one thing — we've got to keep working at it the way we've been working at it because this thing can turn in a heartbeat, either way."

Neal agreed. "Teams sometime get in that comfort zone, 'Oh, we're here.' Marty's like, 'We're not there,'" Neal said.

Even some of the new players know the burden of proof is on the Chargers.

"We didn't give people a reason to have high expectations," said left tackle Roman Olsen, acquired in an offseason trade with Tampa Bay. "We know what we can do as a team and it's just a matter of proving it on Sundays."

Turner's frustration with Raiders beginning to show

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Things have become so bad for the Oakland Raiders that coach Norv Turner is finally allowing himself to criticize his team — sort of.

After weeks of defending Oakland's poor play, Turner seemed fed up with the Raiders' effort level after Sunday's 42-14 loss at San Diego, saying there was nothing positive he could take from their fifth straight defeat. He backedtrack a day later.

Once Turner watched film, he returned to his familiar assessment: Oakland played hard — "competed" — but didn't execute well enough yet again. Quite a contrast from his postgame comments.

"It's obvious we're not capable of putting drives together, and it's obvious we're not capable of putting defensive stands together," the Raiders' first-year coach said after the game.

"We're going to look hard at everything."

Some of his players aren't so sure everybody's trying as hard as they can.

On Monday, four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Charles Woodson accused some of his teammates of dogging it at times during games. Without everyone's effort, he doesn't know if the Raiders

"It's obvious we're not capable of putting drives together, and it's obvious we're not capable of putting defensive stands together."

Norv Turner
Raiders coach

ers (2-6) can win another game.

He hopes players don't call it quits now.

"You get any indication of us winning games by what happened yesterday?" he said. "Look at it, look at the situation, look what's going on. It's not happening. It's just not happening."

The same thing occurred a year ago with different personnel and a different man in charge — some players just stopped caring. Bill Callahan was fired as coach after two seasons and following a 4-12 finish that came on the heels of Oakland's Super Bowl season. Owner Al Davis chose Turner to turn things around, hoping it would happen in a hurry.

Instead, the infighting that defined this club a year ago could come back soon.

Perhaps the Raiders need someone, just one player, who they can call their leader. In past years, it's been Tim Brown, the team's longest-tenured member until he was released during training camp.

Now, respected veterans Jerry Rice and Rich Gannon are also gone — Rice was traded to the Seattle Seahawks and Gannon is out for the year with a broken vertebra in his neck.

Fifth-year receiver Jerry Porter said Monday he's ready to speak up the moment he senses division in the locker room, but that's coming from someone who has already voided the final year of his contract for next season and indicated he likely will no longer be with the Raiders after this year.

All offseason, Porter tried to forget the frustration of last season. Lately, it's been impossible because of all the similarities. "I tried to get that out of my memory bank last year," Porter said. "It feels like déjà vu it really does."

During Sunday's loss, the fifth straight game the Raiders have given up at least 30 points, defensive tackle Warren Sapp was caught by TV cameras engaged in



Oakland Raiders' Charles Woodson reacts on the bench during the fourth quarter of the Raiders' fifth straight loss, 42-14 to the San Diego Chargers on Sunday in San Diego. Woodson said Monday his teammates aren't trying hard enough.

a heated discussion with Turner.

And Sapp is supposed to be one of the good examples for the younger guys.

"When you're in this position, when you're struggling, all the questions are being asked right now — are guys buying in [to the system], leadership," Turner said. "Sometimes it comes down to the guy ran a go route, the guy ran a comeback. Did you cover him? Did you tackle him? ... We can go through every position. Again, leadership is a big part of the game in the locker room and all that. You still have to go out and win your individual battle."

Turner repeated several times

Monday that everyone is tired of the losing and committed to change. He would consider using different players in the starting lineup if he thought Oakland would have a better chance, but the team isn't deep enough to do that, he said.

The Raiders travel to Carolina this Sunday, then have their bye week.

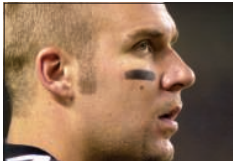
"We need guys to be angry. I'm angry. I hate other guys are," said quarterback Kerry Collins, who's winless in his last 10 starts. "Yeah, we've got talent. Everybody's got talent in this league. It's not about talent. It's about coming together. Otherwise, we don't have a chance."

SPORTS



With the Huskies 1-7, Washington announces that coach Gilbertson will resign at end of year, Page 32

Double take in Pittsburgh



AP

Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, 5-0 as Pittsburgh's starter, ranks fourth in the NFL in passer rating (104.7) and second in completion percentage (70.1).

After conquest of Pats, Steelers get ready to host unbeaten Eagles

By ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — He wasn't yet born the last time the Pittsburgh Steelers won the Super Bowl. That isn't preventing rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger from bringing back the memories of the greatest times — and the greatest teams — in franchise history.

The Steelers are 6-1 after ending New England's 21-game winning streak with a dominating 34-20 victory Sunday in which Roethlisberger improved to 5-0 as a starter. In a fitting throwback to the days when the Steelers won four Super Bowls in six seasons, Roethlisberger is off to the best start by an NFL rookie quarterback since Pittsburgh's Mike Kruczek was 6-0 in 1976.

"We have a rookie quarterback who is playing tremendous," linebacker Joey Porter said.

The Steelers need him to keep playing that well Sunday against the Philadelphia Eagles (7-0) as they try to accomplish something no NFL team has done so late in a season: beat undefeated teams in successive weeks.

Just playing unbeaten teams in consecutive games past the early weeks of a season is a rare occurrence; it hasn't happened since the Detroit Lions lost twice to the undefeated Chicago Bears to close the 1934 season. It also occurred in 1921, when Dayton played Akron (7-0-1) and Buffalo (7-0-2), and in 1920, when Canton met Buffalo (7-0) and Akron (6-0-1).

"Everybody's antennas across the country are starting to go up a little bit," wide receiver Plaxico Burress said, referring to the Steelers' new-found notoriety.

That's largely because of a 22-year-old quarterback who plays like he's much older. Because of Roethlisberger, the Steelers, 6-10 season ago, are hearing about this all ancient history.



AP

Former Eagles running back Duce Staley, who ran for 125 yards in Pittsburgh's 34-20 victory over New England on Sunday, has four 100-yard games in his first season with the Steelers.

■ They have their best seven-game record in Bill Cowher's 13 seasons as coach; they've been 5-2 five times. It's also their best start since a franchise-best 7-0 in 1978, the season they won the third of their four Super Bowls.

■ The Steelers have made the playoffs every other season they were 6-1 or better (1978, 1975, 1974, 1973) and won the Super Bowl three of those times.

■ Coincidentally or not, the Steelers will recognize the 25th anniversary of their last Super

Bowl championship team by saluting the 1979 Steelers on Sunday. Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw was the quarterback of that team, yet his 1970 rookie numbers (six touchdowns, 24 interceptions) can't compare to Roethlisberger's (70.1 completion percentage, a 104.7 passer rating, 9 touchdowns, four interceptions, one interception in his past 116 passes).

"We keep saying it over and over again: Let's not get too excited," Roethlisberger said.

SEE DOUBLE ON PAGE 32



First-place Jets run all over hapless Dolphins in prime time

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No. 6 Texas makes a notable leap in the BCS standings

Page 32



Fourth division adds a new dimension to DODDS-Europe volleyball tourneys

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Lowe, Varitek lead 10 Red Sox into free agency

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